

## WEEK 6 – PSYCHOPATHS AND SOCIOPATHS

- Rafter reading – literature review from 97 = How we get term and where it comes from
- Difference between sociopath (against individual interest) whereas psychopath (against world)
- Lots of it is culturally constructed, but fits into our present understanding.
- Germanic roots in **Richard von Krafft-Ebing** work on ethic degenerates (1840-1902) – these people **ethically degenerate**. Different from moral degenerates.
- Most unmanageable inmates in asylums or most incorrigible in prisons. Worst of the worst in this time. Hard to discipline them. Painted picture of savages with cold hearts and moral colour blindness.
- K Ebbings focus on sexual excess and perversions. Looking at ethic degenerates.
- Kraepelin (1856 – 1926) popularised term with lecture on clinical psychiatry.
- Also focuses on sexual deviances: sadism, masochism, fetishism expected in degenerates.
- Spanner Case
- Tendency of regression to our animalistic history
- **Bernard Glueck (1884 – 1972)** introducing and developing the term in US
  - **influenced by the declining eugenics mvmt in suggestion psychopaths be segregated.** If you say eugenics is on rise and then declining, some of the ideas still continue. The tendrils of eugenics filter through. You can see that in the construction.
- **William Healy (1869-1963)**
  - psychic constitutional inferiority (PCI) – different term for what is a psychopath – Your general constitution (how healthy or resilient you are). Not dealing with feeble-mindedness but idea that something missing in your psychic strength
  - Although Healy identifies PCI's he struggles to define them.
  - Not fully insane, but feeble-minded but not idiot
  - Healy's slutish female PCI reinforced traditional imagery of the good woman as monogamous, passive and concerned to avoid 'unattractiveness' – so if woman who is not the good housewife sitting at home and do not want to live up to a standard set of aesthetic ideals then might be a psychopath if you are a woman
  - Also related homosexuality, masturbation and gender clarity as traits seen in his young male PCI examples.
- **Rober Hare's Psychopathy Checklist Revised** – no defined test yet.
  - Superficial charm
  - Need for stimulation
  - Lack of remorse
  - Parasitic lifestyle
  - Poor behavioural controls
  - Sexual promiscuity
  - Early behaviour problems
  - Juvenile delinquency
- **Hinckley, media and insanity pleas**
- Case facts H tried to assassinate Ronald Reagan. On March 1981 shot several people, the assassination filmed, events surrounding trial played in public realm, debates of psych state of perpetrator became very blurred. Uncontested H shot. 'Not function in a usual, reasonable manner, no evidence he was so impaired could not appreciate wrongfulness of conduct'.
- Term thrown around loosely but difficult to define.
- Constellation of psych symptoms that emerge early in childhood and affects all aspects of a sufferer's life including relationships with fam etc.
- Resistance of treatment used to be a defining characteristic.

- Very common, twice as common as mental disorder.
- 'Psychopaths 15 to 25 more times likely to commit crimes that land them in prison. More likely these people will end up in prison (as opposed to substance abuse for example).
- **Matt DeLisi**
  - Despite variation in age, ethnicity and geo location, life histories the same.
  - Less looking at individual and more at ideas that link patterns as a group.
  - Perpetrated multiple homicides either over extended period of time or singularly. Crim career had genuine involvement in legitimate career in terms of educational achievement.
  - Their interpersonal style ugly, mean, unpredictable, blaming, inconsiderate and insincere. Genuine belief that crim activity was other peoples fault. Always excuse. Real victims had it coming or deserved it. Dettached. Self-martyring.
  - Usually when get pinned say okay will not do it again, not case with psycho
  - Test comes from criminal psychologist – manipulates system and ends up going back to jail. Criminal psychopaths are low functioning psychopath.
  - Criminology – nurture debate – stopping psychopaths who gets arrested anyway – whoa re the true criminals (delisi argument).
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- **Cultural**
  - The ghoul – evil spirit in muslim county – robs graves and preys on human corpses. Eats bodies
  - Film psycho
  - Texas chainsaw massacre.
  - Culture and there for fantasy but if grow up with this, its out image of them.
- American Psycho. Vioent psychopath but goals to put himself forward and career goals is embedded in our culture as to how we succeed. **Is lack of empathy admirable trait?**
- Personality tying into how you operate – depends on your wants and desires (e.g. to be surgeon).
- Empathy weaker and handicapping us.

#### Psychopathy and the Evolution of Criminal Knowledge – Nicole Rafter

- 18<sup>th</sup> century, psychiatrists began to interpret aberrant behaviours as signs not of demonic possession but of mental disease.
- Distinguish insanity and **moral insanity** – condition in which emotional and ethical capacities are impaired while the intellect remains intact.
- Psychopath applied to wide range of deviant types, from William Healy's (1915) sissified male delinquent to Norman Mailers (1957) white negro, Herrenstein's impulsive sensation-seeker.
- Carrying progressive criminology over divide between biological and mentalistic explanations of crim behaviour. Normalized the criminal body which for nearly 50 yrs portrayed as biologically deviant (Lombroso-Ferrero).
- The psychopath is seldom 'feeble-minded' while a few test as intellectually weak, others are intellectually normal.
- **Not insane, condition overlaps with psychoneuroses and psychoses.** Exhibit earlier in life. Inherent 'consitutional condition.
- **In 1900** theorists adhered to criminal anthropology and its notion of the atavistic, physically stigmatized born criminal.
- **Later growing doubts about preiously accepted understanding of deviance, one dased on degeneracy and other on the theory of eugenics.**

- The credibility of eugenics theory in 20<sup>th</sup> century encouraged many social scientists and ordinary citizens to believe that crime could be curtailed if criminals were prevented from breeding.
- Krafft-Ebing and Kraepelin subscribe to anthropological psychopathy, portrayed the psychopath as biologically deviant, a degenerate with physical and mental stigmata. **Both associated psychopathy with gender and sexual deviancy, associated psychopathy as a valid, useful, even modish diagnostic category.**
- **Krafft Ebing considers all mental disorders to be psychopathic conditions. They are diseases in which the brain matter literally changes. There is no form of insanity without a corresponding transformation in brain tissue. Most serious are ‘constitutional’ – diseases that pervade the entire body. Takes roots in brains already invalidated by weak heredity, the constitutional psychopathic conditions manifest themselves in intellectual defects, ethical or both.**
- **‘Like Lombroso’s born criminals, Krafft-Ebing’s ethic degenerates can be recognized by their moral colour-blindness or coldness of heart.**
- **Ethic degenerates are the most unmanageable inmates in asylums or the most incorrigible in prisons. ‘savages’.**
- Whereas diseases are transitory, psychopathy is an ongoing state or condition.
- Kraepelin’s view are constitutional: inborn, congenital signs of degeneracy and usually hereditary. They are anthropological aberrations, moral savages whose prognosis is inevitably poor. Types – such as morbid liar and born swindler.
- KE – sexual excess and perversions are predictable concomitants of psychic degeneracy. E.g. bisexual man who seduces little boys. Sadism masochism and fetishism are to be expected in degenerates whose primeval tendencies go back to the animal period.
- In the US Glueck, Healy and Spaulding most influential in 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Glueck
  - Believed criminal behaviour reflects underlying mental disorder. Criminology is an integral part of psychopathology and crime is a type of abnormal conduct which expresses a failure of proper adjustment at the psychological level.
  - Identifying the psychopath as constitutionally inferior. Constitution inherited. Those with antisocial tendencies are the most dangerous of all criminals.
  - Psychopaths are drinkers, drug addicts, gamblers and sex perverts.
  - Psychopathic delinquents are the most troublesome element in a penal institution. They are subject to outbreaks of pathological emotionalism and excitement and cannot be given proper care in the avg prison. Should be sent to specialised psychiatric facilities.
- **William Healy**
  - Psychic Constitutional inferiority (PCI) is one of 5 major types of mental abnormality that the individual delinquent associates with criminal behaviour. PCI is a borderline condition between feeble-mindedness and insanity which ‘unfits’ those afflicted from leading a law abiding life are egocentric, selfish, irritable, very suggestible, easily fatigued mentally.
  - Female psychopaths are passive and immobile whereas the more restless male psychopaths actively explore the world and hence get into more trouble. Healy associates female psychopaths with the degenerationist archetype of the irresponsible woman who bears numerous illegitimate children.
- Spaulding refrains from speculating on a possible casual connection between psychopathy and promiscuity.

#### The Trouble with Psychopathy – Walters

- Hare asserts that psychopathy is the single most important clinical construct in the criminal justice system.
- Hare influenced by medical pathology model and personality trait theory.
- The genetic roots of psychopathic behaviour are assumed to be significantly stronger than the genetic origins of other forms of crime and delinquency.

- Hare posited that psychopaths have trouble appreciating the deeper semantic meaning of words and the emotional content of events.
- Falls along a continuum.
- Sociological criminology overemphasises social-environmental factors in accounting for crime, Hares psychopathy model can be criticized for opposite tendency – accentuating internal dispositions over situational influences in its approach to antisocial behaviour.
- Convey hostile intent.
- Longitudinal studies on serious delinquency indicate that more than one half the juveniles arrested for serious offenses during adolescence do not go on to become antisocial adults (Robins, 1966). Is psychopathy any more stable than crime?

Congruent with the alleged temporal stability of psychopathy is the widely held belief that psychopaths do not benefit from psychological programming and intervention. Hare (1996) goes so far as to insinuate that psychological treatment may make psychopaths worse by teaching them how to manipulate others and maneuver around the criminal justice system.

- Another arrived at different conclusion however.

the results of this meta-analysis, psychopathic individuals enrolled in psychoanalytic, cognitive-behavioral, eclectic, and psychopharmacological therapy achieve significantly better effects than psychopaths assigned to a no-treatment control condition, whereas electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) and therapeutic communities yield outcomes that fail to differ from those obtained by no-treatment controls

- Despite the problems described in this article, psychopathy may still have a role to play in the development of an effective theory of crime. Even though it may not be particularly helpful in deciphering the mysteries of crime, the psychopathy concept can be of assistance in identifying the qualities of a good general theory of crime by its own omissions and limitations. First, a genuine theory of crime, rather than diagnosing people as psychopaths, avoids the fundamental attributional

- error, perhaps by labeling the pattern rather than the individual.

Second, a

holistic theory of crime eludes deterministic traps (e.g., genetics/biology cause

- psychopathy) by focusing on bidirectional and reciprocal relationships and the human capacity for choice. Third, a balanced theory of crime rejects reductionism and dichotomization in favor of dimensional constructs. Fourth, a visionary theory of crime eschews the myopia inherent in exclusive person- or situation-oriented models by stressing interactive principles. Fifth, a comprehensive theory of crime avoids the isolationism of a fixed internalworldview by taking contextual factors into account. Sixth, an optimistic theory of crime celebrates change as a natural developmental process that even those heavily invested in a criminal lifestyle are capable of achieving under the proper circumstances. There are several criminological theories with the potential to fulfill most, if not all, of these criteria;

- however, the psychopathy concept is not among them.

NaturePsycho

- Brian Dugan – psycho. Cognitive control, attention and moral decision-making tests. Crimes often impulsive, violent, committed in cold blood and recalled without the slightest twinge of remorse.
- 1% of adult male population and 25% of male prisoners.
- Brains of psychopaths show distinct defects in the paralimbic system, a network of brain regions important for memory and regulating emotion.
- Dugan's case first in world to admit fMRI as evidence.
- Changes of blood flow within the brain – thought to correlate with brain activity
- Dugan's crime – raped 10yo in car and beat to death, 27 yo nurse rammed into car drowned in quarry, raped 7 yo and left her in ditch.
- Death row reluctance because others already convicted.
- Argument that scans are an objective nature of the mental state – still soft data of behaviour but brain scan doesn't lie, if there is tissue missing, cannot manufacture this.

- Lawyers switched to positron emission tomography which can be used to give a measure of metabolic activity in the brain. – explaining to jury that this is someone who is not operating with a full deck and so may not be eligible for the harshest punishment possible.
- There's bound to be overlap, has not shown one specific brain signature guaranteed with some percent certainty to be a psychopath or behave like one.
- **Possible bias for the jury – neuroscientific explanations can be particularly seductive to the layperson.**
- Scored 38/40 on the Hare Psychopathy Checklist, evaluates 20 aspects of personality and behaviour through a semi-structure interview.