‘MASCULINITY, MASKS AND THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF PSYCHOPATHY’

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The Search for the Psychopath
Pop Psychopathy
Psychopathy Skepticism

“Psychopathic disorder does not exist. So often, diseases are conceptualized as real things that exist inside their hosts. Yet diseases do not exist in the way in which patients exist, or in the way in which a bacterium exists” (Gunn, 1998: 33).

Who is the Psychopath?

“Psychopaths are social predators who charm, manipulate and ruthlessly plow their way through life, leaving behind a broad trail of broken hearts, shattered expectations, and empty wallets. Completely lacking in conscience and in feelings for others they selfishly take what they want and do as they please, violating social norms and expectations without the slightest sense of guilt or regret” (Hare, 1993: xi).
“Psychopathy is a clinical construct usually referred to as a personality disorder defined by a constellation of interpersonal, affective, lifestyle, and behavioral characteristics that manifest in wide-ranging antisocial behaviors” (Delisi, 2009).

Pritchard (1835), Henry Maudsley (1879), Hervey Cleckley (1941) McCord & McCord (1964) Robert Hare – Hare Psychopathy Checklist (PCL-R)
No Paper Tiger

- Psychopathy is thought to characterize 10 to 25 percent of prison populations and around 2 percent of the general population.

- Hare (1993: 2 and 74) posits the "conservative estimate" that there are 2 or 3 million psychopaths in North America.

- Hare and DeLisi have both argued that psychopaths might account for 50 percent of all crimes (Hare, 1993: 87).
Impacting Criminology and Criminal Justice Practice

• “Psychopathy is also critically important in practice and should be included in every handbook of every practitioner position in the juvenile and criminal justice systems” (Delisi, 2009, p. 267).

• “In a potent convergence of custodial and psychiatric classification systems, inmates considered psychopaths may be kept for prolonged periods under conditions of extreme isolation” (Rhodes, 2002: 443).
Diagnosis as a Kiss of Death

- Toch writes: “No other diagnostic category has the attribute of being a nonpathological condition deemed to enhance culpability.”

- “The court looks at your PCL-R rating and adds two years to your sentence, then another two years, and then another” (A “psychopathic” prisoner, cited in Abbott, 2007).

- Trial of Brian Dugan
- Psychiatrist James Grigson or “Dr. Death”
Interpersonal Style: Aggressive narcissism

- Glibness/Superficial Charm
- Grandiose Sense of Self-worth
- Deceitful
- Cunning/Manipulative
Deficient Affective Experience

- Shallow affect
  - Fearlessness, incapacity to love
- Callous/lack of empathy
- Lack of remorse/guilt
- Failure to accept responsibility for actions
Impulsive/Irresponsible Behavioural Style

- Need for stimulation/Prone to boredom
- Poor behavioural control/Impulsivity
- Lack of long-term goals
- Sexual promiscuity
- Many short-term marital relationships
- Delinquency
- Early behaviour problems
The Psychopath in the Mirror

- “Their game is self-gratification” (Hare, 1993:1).
- “unending series of casual, impersonal, and trivial sexual relationships” (Hare, 1993: 45).
- They also have “an ongoing and excessive need for excitement” (Hare, 1993: 61) and an “inability to tolerate routine or monotony”
Hollywood Loves a Baddie

Film critics Siskel and Ebert wrote: “Enjoying being evil is the key to any successful villain” (cited in Baumeister, 1997: 66).
The Rise and Rise of the Anti-Hero
Less Blood, Still Cold Blooded
Psychopaths with xx chromosomes
Why are Psychopaths all white?

“What happened that drained all empathy from him? … He's my favorite antagonist ever, because he's a cold-blooded psychopath lead by an all-consuming thirst for power and yet I can't help but admire the triumph of his cerebral approach in the most violent streets of America.”
How do Psychopaths Construct their Mask of Sanity?
The Modus Operandi of the "Emotional Blackmailer"

He is too good to be true - He is soft-spoken and polite, he is kind and loves women, he is respectful, he doesn't come on too strong FOR THE FIRST FEW MEETINGS ONLY. He's always on the lookout for a patsy, but he's in no hurry as there's always another one around the corner so he'll take his time in coming on to you.

He'll be there more and more frequently - gazing at you with puppy dog eyes; wanting to know everything about you, asking your advice, making it look like you are getting to know each other and forming a bond.

He will put himself in the best possible light - including lying through his teeth about his ambitions, activities, hopes and dreams.

His seduction techniques are often subtle and well-practiced - It will seem he did nothing to seduce you until you look back and analyze it. He sat and stood close to you, he brushed against you, but it didn't seem to be on purpose.

He suddenly "Turns on the Charm" and turns up the heat - Presses you for a date, a kiss, a night out on the town. He is happy to get, but doesn't want to give anything in return. He's not ready to lose you. He's still in the "getting to know you" stage. He's still looking for the patsy who will respond with total commitment.
You cannot have a healthy relationship with someone who is wearing a mask.
The MASK of SANITY
CLECKLEY
“The Mask You Live In”
Is Donald Trump a Sociopath? - The Atlantic
20 Jul 2016 - This week, the co-author of Donald Trump’s autobiography said in The New Yorker that if he were writing The Art of the Deal today, it would be ...

Donald Trump: Profile Of A Sociopath | Huffington Post
www.huffingtonpost.com/daniel...trump-profile-of-a-sociopath_b_11318128.html  
3 Aug 2016 - Amazingly, given his erratic behavior for more than a year, the issue of Trump’s mental stability has received relatively little attention. ... There, a professional psychologist, Dan P. McAdams, provided a psychological profile of Trump for the purpose of assessing the potential ...

How much of a psychopath is Donald Trump? Worse than Hitler ...
www.independent.co.uk > News > World > Americas  
22 Aug 2016 - Donald Trump has more psychopathic traits than Adolf Hitler, according to a new study. Using a standard psychometric tool, Dr Kevin Dutton of Oxford University ranked both presidential candidates and a series of historical world figures. Trump scored 171, achieving two more more ...

Donald Trump outscores Hitler on psychopathic traits test, claims ...
www.telegraph.co.uk > Science  
22 Aug 2016 - Donald Trump outscores Adolf Hitler on a test used to determine psychopathic traits, while Hillary Clinton ranks between Napoleon and Nero, ...

'Is Trump a psychopath? I’d call him a narcissist' | Science | The ...
www.theguardian.com > Science > Psychology  
23 Aug 2016 - In the absence of that, to say that anyone – Donald Trump, as a wild ... It has been a commonplace for years to note that psychopaths and ...

Where Does Donald Trump Rate On Psychopath Leaderboard?
news.sky.com/.../where-does-donald-trump-rate-on-psychopath-leader-board-105479...  
22 Aug 2016 - Researchers at Oxford University rate Donald Trump and rival Hillary Clinton on measures of psychopathy.

Donald Trump has more psychopathic traits than Adolf Hitler - Daily Mail
www.dailymail.co.uk/.../Donald-Trump-psychopathic-traits-Adolf-Hitler-Hillary-Clinton...  
22 Aug 2016 - Oxford University explores psychopathic traits of the US Presidential candidates and finds Donald Trump ranks just below Saddam Hussein. ...
Including results for is hillary clinton a sociopath
Search only for is hillary clinton a psychopath

Hillary Clinton's lying is the behavior of a sociopath - Washington Times
19 Jul 2016 - Or when she dissembled to the Washington Post, about not supporting gay marriage, and then repeatedly lied when she said she never said she was against it. And then it was possible the thorniest policy of all to be against her, to be the candidate in a way on the left, a danger to women, a danger to people of color. She even went so far as to say she was not even for gun control, which was a great thing.

Why People Think Hillary Is A Psychopath | piso project
https://piso-project.wordpress.com/why-people-think-hillary-is-a-psychopath/
Why Many People Think Hillary Clinton Is A Dangerous Psychopath. These are links to various sites that give information about the case for Hillary Clinton as a psychopath.

Could Hillary Clinton be a psychopath? - Quora
The idea that Hillary might have a Personality Disorder is a laughable act of desperation by Trump supporters trying to deflect attention from Trump’s obvious mental illness.

Shocking Hillary Clinton quotes...
hillaryclintonquotes.tumblr.com/
19 Feb 2016 - Get to know the clinical Sociopath known as Hillary Clinton a little better. These are 100% sourced and verified quotes. We recommend you...

BOOK CLAIM: Hillary Clinton Is A Violent And Erratic Psychopath...
6 Jun 2016 - [caption id="attachment_259622" align="aligncenter" width="600"] Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton waves as she speaks at a..."

Donald Trump has more psychopathic traits than Adolf Hitler - Daily Mail
www.dailymail.co.uk/.../Donald-Trump-psychopathic-traits-Adolf-Hitler-Hillary-Clinton...
22 Aug 2016 - Donald Trump has more psychopathic traits than Adolf Hitler, while Hillary Clinton shows 'machiavellian egocentricity'. Scientists conclude BOTH presidential candidates may be psychopaths – but claim that could be a good thing.

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton studied for psychopathic tendencies...
metro.co.uk > World > Donald Trump
22 Aug 2016 - Donald Trump is 'worse than Hitler' while Hillary Clinton is like Napoleon. Donald Trump has stronger psychopathic tendencies than Hitler, according to a new study... While opponent...
Trump and Toxic Masculinity

“Growing up in a factory family in small-town Indiana, I led an uncertain life with only a few constants: ... the ever-present need to “be a man,” a phrase that always carried with it an air of responsibility and torment. To be a man was to maintain the appearance of toughness, to never let on that you were weak or in pain. ... My stepdad was fond of saying, “Boys don’t cry — crying’s for women.”

Taking refuge in traditional masculinity is a coping mechanism that works only so much as it deadens a man and his emotions. In its most pure state, masculinity is a hardening shell meant to protect men from the disappointments and travails of life, a self-delusion that preserves them from feeling overwhelmed by the odds against them (Jared Sexton, NYTimes, 13 Oct 2016)
Sometimes it's not the people who change, it's the mask that falls off.
What is Behind the Mask of Masculinity?
What is the “Mask” in Psychopathy?

Cleckley regarded the ‘convincing mask’ of sanity as “central to psychopathy” (p. 207).

To Cleckley the mask was: “the conjunction of low anxiety, charm, social poise, and seemingly intact intelligence in the presence of otherwise maladaptive functioning, such as recklessness and dishonesty.”
But What is the Reality Beneath the Mask?

“severe disturbance lay behind this mask” (Cleckley, p. 318).

Yet, Miller and Lynam (2012) point out that in fact the psychopathic diagnosis “captures primarily adaptive functioning—there is no evidence that the traits associated with PPI FD are masking underlying personality pathology ordysfunction” (p. 318)
Psychopathic Exterior as Adaptation


De Viggiani, Nick. "Trying to be something you are not: Masculine performances within a prison setting." *Men and Masculinities* (2012): 1097184X12448464.

Not Just Imprisonment


Return to Dramaturgy to Understand Masks
Return to Psychoanalysis to Understand Motivations for the Projection of Shamelessness

- “Psychopaths have a narcissistic and grossly inflated view of their self-worth and importance” seeing themselves as “the center of the universe” (Hare, 1993: 38).

- McCord and McCord (1964) write: “The psychopath is like an infant, absorbed in his own needs, vehemently demanding satiation”.

The Science of “Mr. Wrong”

The Dark Triad: Facilitating a Short-Term Mating Strategy in Men

P. K. JONASON

What’s so right about Mr. Wrong?

Why are some of us so attracted to men who are bad for us? Sharmi Battacharya explores new research that suggests a dangerous blend of personality types can drive us to love.

Singleness, a highly physical, attractive, seemingly-taking, yet young, confident, and moldable individual is often associated with traits such as extraversion, agreeableness, openness, and neuroticism. These traits are often found in individuals who are considered attractive and desirable for marriage. However, recent research suggests that the Dark Triad, consisting of narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy, may be responsible for the attraction to undesirable individuals. These traits are often found in individuals who are considered physically attractive and desirous for marriage, leading to a dangerous blend of personality types that can drive us to love.
Masculinity, Narcissism and Psychopathy: An Interview With Ivan Throne

Ivan Throne is a business manager, author and seasoned veteran of the financial industry with over thirty years of study in the classical Japanese military fighting arts. His vivid lessons and ruthless mentoring for the hard and often cruel demands of our pitiless high performance world have helped millions of people across social media deeply connect with radical, authentic success to the joys of partners, lovers, colleagues and clients.

Drawing on the grave and powerful personality traits of the dark triad, Ivan delivers concrete and actionable writing at DarkTriadMan.com. Launched less than five months ago, the site has risen quickly in the manosphere with over 35,000 visitors in the first five months. Ivan’s high engagement on Twitter has been a large factor in this growth with more than 3MM impressions in just the last 90 days.

What is a ‘Dark Triad Man’?

A Dark Triad Man is, quite simply, the distillation of our apex predator species into an animal of fundamentally exponential power beyond the common man. It is a combination of not merely the “dark triad” traits of narcissism, Machiavellianism and psychopathy, but an acutely self-aware and deliberate cultivation of those traits along critical lines of power.

The man who is utterly detached from illusion and delivers with the icy competence of the
Signs You’re Sleeping with a Psychopath

1. May show an odd fascination with fire/weapons/drugs/alcohol.

3. Unusual fascination with body function of bowel movements/products, flatulence. Would not go to the toilet unless I was out of the house.

4. Homophobic (angry/protests about gays)

5. Staring / tuning you out / The Predatory Stare / Waking up during the night to see his face over mine staring.

6. Considers their own logic or intellect to be superior to all others.

8. Is intolerant of children or animals.

11. ridicule or insult you then tell you its a joke

12. roll his or her eyes when you talk?

13."twist" your words, somehow turning what you said against you?

17. Doesn't talk much about his family or his past

18. Paranoid you're going out with someone else

21. Says he loves you on the first date, or online before you have even met

20. Has major Interests in NLP, Seduction Techniques, Psychology
Masculinity Training
THE MASK BEHIND THE MASK BEHIND THE MASK IN PSYCHOPATHIC BEHAVIOURS

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“Attributions of ‘evil’ are often as illuminating of the object of characterization as they are of their source” (Martens, 2008)
Isn’t it scary to believe in psychopaths?

“On a more personal level, it is very likely that at some time in your life you will come into painful contact with a psychopath. For your own physical, psychological, and financial well-being it is crucial that you know how to identify the psychopath, how to protect yourself, and how to minimize the harm done to you” (Hare, 1993, p. Xii).
Seeking a Scapegoat

- You can call this “shadow projection” (Jung)
- “mimetic desire” and “scapegoating” (Girard)
- “countertransference” (Meloy, 2007)
- Dehumanisation (Bandura et al, 1975)
- “splitting the ego” (Melanie Klein, 1985)
- “projection of unconscious wishes” (Freud, 1930)
What Are Scapegoats For?

- "Unanimous hatred is the greatest medicine for a human community" (Aeschylus)
- "confront the degree of psychopathy in ourselves instead of projecting it into the Other and condemning and possibly persecuting (or even executing) it there" (Carveth, 2010).
The Psychopath in the Mirror

- “Their game is self-gratification” (Hare, 1993:1).

- “unending series of casual, impersonal, and trivial sexual relationships” (Hare, 1993: 45).

- They also have “an ongoing and excessive need for excitement” (Hare, 1993: 61) and an “inability to tolerate routine or monotony”
Guilt Over our Inner Narcissist

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McCord and McCord (1964) write: “The psychopath is like an infant, absorbed in his own needs, vehemently demanding satiation”.

The Screen of Sanity?

- Is the psychopath a screen “upon which we project our guilt as well as our anxieties” (Garland, 2001: 364).

- *The Corporation*: ‘Do you work for a psychopath?’

- A belief in psychopaths helps to “reduce [our] anxieties, frustrations, and guilt by putting all of the blame on an identifiable perpetrator” (Ellard)
Belief in Psychopaths as Comfort Food

“If evil persons are not the source of evil, then the more disturbing possibility must be entertained that evil might be a relatively diffuse and commonplace phenomenon that normal people get caught up in”

“If you believe that evil is the product of evil character, your world can be orderly and fair as long as the evil people are not around” (Ellard, et al, 2002: 353; see also Darley, 1992).
THANKS

Full paper available as soon as I can finish it

Shadd Maruna
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Jessica on August 9, 2013 at 8:59 am

I am a psychopath, and I can say from first hand experience, I do feel guilt, fear, love, happiness, etc. But I only feel guilt when I have done something pretty awful...When I love I would do anything for the person I love. Also, not all psychopaths seek power and control...I have the tendency to hurt people because I lack the compassion. I don’t want to spend my life hurting others, instead I’d like to spend my life being happy, loving, and kind.

Admin on September 8, 2013 at 6:39 pm

So sorry to break the good news to you, but you’re not a psychopath.

Kris on September 25, 2015 at 6:00 pm

This is NOT a psychopath. Many people have traits on a low scale, but a real psychopath will get in, hurt, and leave, constantly lie and cheat in everything – you’ll notice a lifetime history of this with me. I have mine and he plead guilty for a plea. I will be following up with this probation officer to make...
Who is the Psychopath?

“Psychopaths are social predators who charm, manipulate and ruthlessly plow their way through life, leaving behind a broad trail of broken hearts, shattered expectations, and empty wallets. Completely lacking in conscience and in feelings for others they selfishly take what they want and do as they please, violating social norms and expectations without the slightest sense of guilt or regret” (Hare, 1993: xi).
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Pritchard (1835), Henry Maudsley (1879), McCord & McCord (1964), Hervey Cleckley’s (1941) *The Mask of Sanity*

Robert Hare – Hare Psychopathy Checklist (PCL-R)
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- Psychopathy is thought to characterize 10 to 25 percent of prison populations and around 2 percent of the general population.
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- Hare and DeLisi have both argued that psychopaths might account for 50 percent of all crimes (Hare, 1993: 87).
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- Many short-term marital relationships
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- Early behaviour problems
Hare’s Psychopathy Checklist - Revised

Alpha .87

Score of 30 out of 40 usually used as a cut-off for diagnosis of ‘psychopathy’
Against the Cut-Off

- Hemphill and Hart (2002) argue “It is impossible to describe a person in any meaningful way simply as ‘psychopathic’ or ‘not psychopathic’.

- British psychiatrist John Gunn (1998: 32) writes: “In all my work, I do not use the noun ‘psychopath’, the adjective ‘psychopathic’, or the phrase ‘psychopathic disorder’”. 

For the Cut-Off

“Viewing psychopathy as ordinal (rather than categorical) strikes some as the counterpart of degrees of pregnancy. The demand that psychopathy must meet is to help us draw distinctions between qualitatively different groups of offenders” (Toch, 1998: 155).

Hare (1993: 32): “refining our procedures for ferreting the psychopaths out” from the wider population.
Scottish Psychopaths: 
Snakes in Kilts

“Where American psychopaths are more pleasant (glib and superficially charming - "hey you're looking good have you been working out?")

Scottish psychopaths just growl at you.

This means that different diagnostic thresholds are sometimes recommended (e.g., 30 in US and 25 in UK); the implication though, is that if you stick a Scottish psychopath (who scores say 26 on the PCL-R) on a plane to America, at some point in the flight -- or perhaps on landing -- he is cured completely.

(Psychologist Mark Penman, pers comm.)
Why Do We Believe in Psychopaths?

(as opposed to psychopathy or psychopathic behaviour)

- Because they are “real”?
- The diagnosis predicts dangerousness?
- The diagnosis aids the treatment process?
- The diagnosis is easy to use?
- The diagnosis helps with prevention work?
- The diagnosis is politically correct?
The Diagnosis is “real”?

Simourd, Bonta, Andrews and Hoge (1991) “engaged in what some may have considered heresy by suggesting that the concept of psychopathy might be a myth” (Gendreau et al, 2002: 400).

See also Blackburn’s (1993) discussion of psychopathy as a mythical construct.
Do Psychopaths Get Angry?

- Cleckley argued that psychopathy involved a poverty of affect. ‘Psychopaths’ might dabble in “vexation, spite, …peevish resentment, etc” (p. 380), but they lack any deep, real or sustained emotion.

- “According to [other] investigators, psychopaths experience intense, chronic anger that creates serious consequences for themselves and others” (Steuerwald and Kosson, p. 119).
Hare’s Solution

- Hare (1993: 60) decides to split the difference and argues that, yes, psychopaths have “hair-trigger” tempers and frequently throw tantrums, but “Their aggressive displays are ‘cold’; they lack the intense emotional arousal experienced by others when they lose their temper”.

The Diagnosis Predicts Risk

The PCL-R has been ordained as “an unparalleled...measure for making risk assessments with white male prison inmates” (Salekin, Rogers & Sewell, 1996, p. 212).

“The single most important clinical construct in the criminal justice system” (Hare, 1998, p. 99)

“The single best predictor of recidivism that has ever existed” (Hercz, 2001, p. 28).
Big Claims for Predictive Power

Hart (1998, p. 133) even contended that “Psychopathy is such a robust and important risk factor for violence that failure to consider it may constitute professional negligence”
Parole and Psychopathy

“In many cases the offender was a psychopath whose violent recidivism would have been predicted if the authorities – including the parole board – had only done their homework” (pp. 6-7).

“Any parole board whose decision does not take into account current knowledge about psychopathy and recidivism runs the risk of making a potentially disastrous mistake” (p. 15).
Empirical Scrutiny

“The PCL-R’s predictive strength appears to lie with the F2 [criminal history] factors” (Gendreau, et al., 2002, p. 412)

- “Our within-sample comparisons found that the PCL-R and the LSI-R actually differ little in their ability to predict either general or violent recidivism” (Hemphill & Hare, 2004: 235).

Coid et al (2009) Prisoner Study

- Cohort study of 1396 prisoner outcomes found that “Actuarial instruments requiring no training to administer performed as well as personality assessment” (Coid et al, 2009: 337).

“This would imply that [for male prisoners] the effort involved in applying structured risk-assessment instruments, some of which require considerable time to administer and expensive training, is not justified if the intention is merely to stratify individuals into levels of risk” (Coid et al, 2009: 345).
But, psychopathy was always about more than just risk

“The PCL-R...measures a construct with important and far-reaching theoretical and practical implications... Its utility and explanatory power extend well beyond the assessment of risk” (Hemphill & Hare, 2004, p. 206)
The Diagnosis is a Useful Clinical Tool?

“No other clinical construct...comes close to psychopathy in terms of its general usefulness for the criminal justice system” (Hemphill & Hare, 2004, p. 205).

Psychopathy is “the single most important clinical construct in the criminal justice system” (Hare, 1998, p. 99)
What Do Clinicians Say?

From Hans Toch:

“I have myself been associated with prison inmates and violent offenders most of my working life (Toch, 1992b, Toch & Adams, 1989). I can testify...that I recall not a single instance in which my understanding of an offender I have known would have benefited from adjudging the person a psychopath”
Is the PCL-R Dynamic Enough to be Clinically Useful?

- PCL-R is “not sensitive to change” (Gendreau, et al, 2002: 412).

- “A disorder defined by past history of socially deviant behavior is permanently fixed, and cannot provide a point of reference for clinical intervention” (Gunn, 1998: 38).

- “It is not obvious that a composite measure like the PCL provides a particularly useful clinical basis for intervention work” (Crighton, 2009: 35).
The Measure Identifies Those Who Are Inappropriate for Treatment?

One of the key claims made by supports of the PCL was that “it provided a reliable and valid means of identifying those who are unsuitable for current interventions” (Crighton, 2009: 33)
Because Psychopaths Cannot Change

- “We know there is no effective treatment for psychopathy” (Hochstenbach, cited in Abbott, 2007: 943).

Conventional wisdom, after all, is that psychopathy is “untreatable” (see e.g., Reid & Gacono, 2000), indeed it is even made worse by treatment (Hare, Clark, Grann & Thornton, 2000; Loman, et al, 2005; Rice et al, 1992).
Or Can They?

“There is no body of scientifically sound research on the treatment of psychopathic offenders” (Hemphill & Hart, 2002):

- Lack of adequate controls
- Failure to control for heterogeneity within treatment groups
- Inconsistent concepts and measures of psychopathy
- Lack of attention to developmental factors
- Inadequate definition and implementation of treatment
- Severely restricted outcome criteria
Evidence for Treatment

- D’Silva and colleagues (2004: 174) conclude: “We do not have the evidence to conclude that high scoring psychopaths have a negative response to treatment”.

- Jennifer Skeem’s research

- Salekin’s (2002) meta-analysis of 42 studies clearly demonstrates positive change is possible with interventions like CHROMIS in the UK.
Diagnosis Useful for Prevention

“In a desperate attempt to explain this…complete lack of empathy… we turn first to family background, but there is little to help us there. … For every adult psychopath from a troubled background there is another whose family life apparently was warm and nurturing and whose siblings are normal, conscientious people with the ability to care deeply for others. … The arguments that children subjected to abuse and violence become abusive and violent adults are of limited value here” (Hare, 1993: 6)
It Is Politically Correct?

“Since psychopathy is a pejorative label, honest and open encounters with subjects of classification are precluded” (Toch, p. 150).

“extraordinarily stigmatizing diagnosis” (Rhodes, 2002: 447)

DeLisi (2009): “Psychopathy carries with it an edge, a connotation, and label that is loaded and has been shown to negatively affect offenders characterized as psychopathic”
Cavadino’s Alternative

“Perhaps we should strip away the mask completely, and for the term ‘psychopath’ substitute the word ‘bastard’. For ‘predominantly aggressive psychopath’, read: ‘stroppy bastard. For ‘predominantly inadequate psychopath’: read ‘useless bastard’. Would much be lost in the descriptive power of the terms?”

(From “Death to the Psychopath”)
The Measure is Easy to Use

- “The PCL-R is not particularly user-friendly because it requires considerable administration time and only then by individuals with graduate degrees, preferably in psychology”.

- “Given the complexity and expense of administering the PCL as a means of risk assessment, it clearly needs to perform significantly better than other measures if its use is to be justified” (Crighton, 2009: 35).
The Diagnosis Helps Courts/Juries Excuse Offending Based on Mental Incapacity

- “Psychopathic killers, however, are not mad. … Their acts result not from a deranged mind but from a cold, calculating rationality combined with a chilling inability to treat others as thinking, feeling human beings”

- Hare (1993: 22) writes: “Unlike psychotic individuals, psychopaths are rational and aware of what they are doing and why. Their behavior is the result of choice, freely exercised” (emphasis in original).