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Profiling psychopathy in prison and general population

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Profiling psychopathy in prison and general population

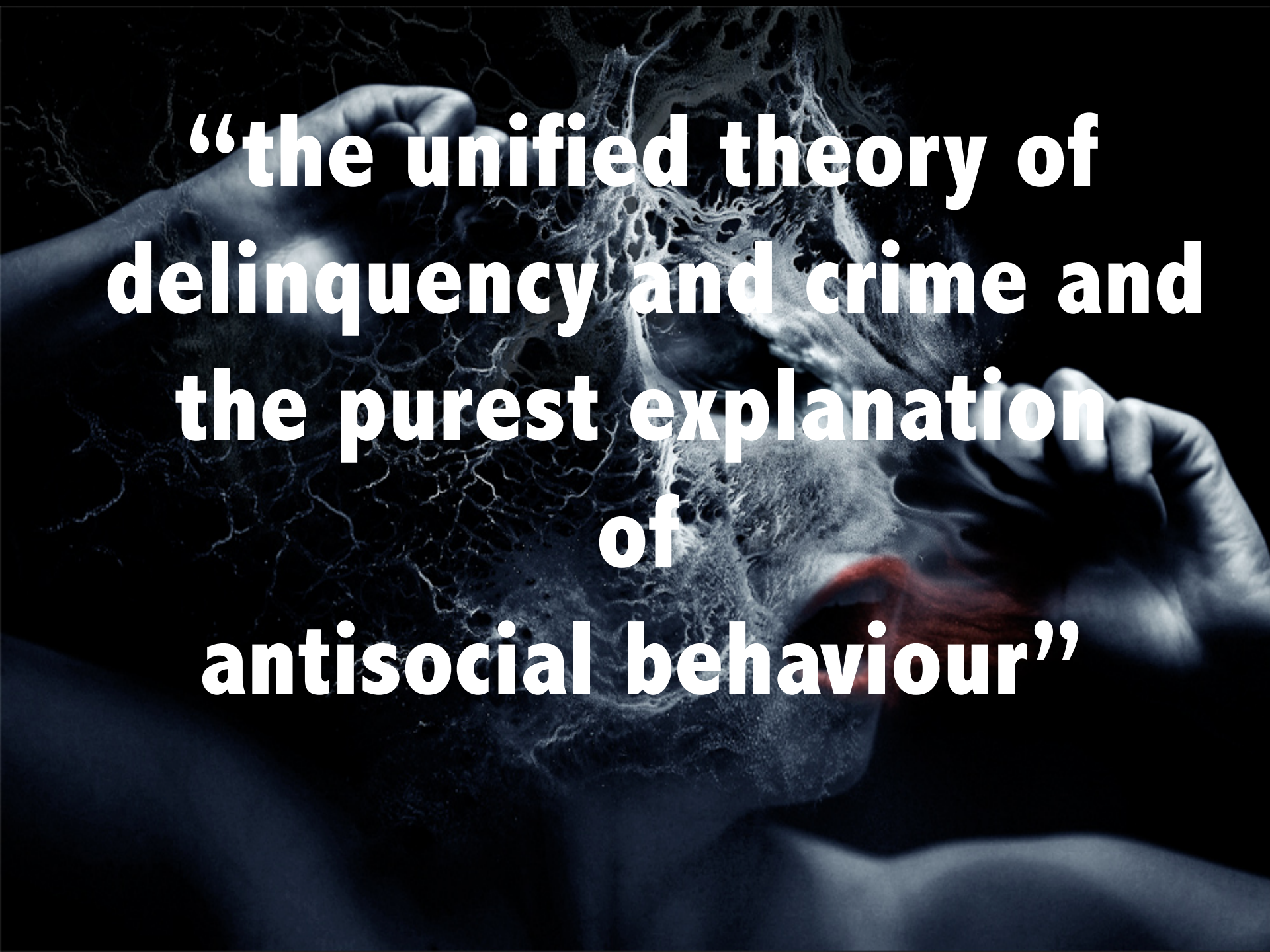**Professor Daniel Boduszek**

University of
HUDDERSFIELD

Psychopathy

Introduction

- Psychopathy
  - The most important psychological constructs within the criminal justice system (e.g., Hare et al., 2000; Harris et al., 2001, Monahan, 2006)

"the unified theory of delinquency and crime and the purest explanation of antisocial behaviour"

Psychopathy

Psychopathy, an informal term without a strict definition, consist of components from three DSM-IV personality disorders.

DSM-IV
Cluster B Personality Disorders

(dramatic, emotional, or erratic disorders)

* Antisocial personality disorder: "pervasive disregard for the law and the rights of others"

* Histrionic personality disorder: "pervasive attention-seeking behavior including inappropriate sexual seductiveness and shallow or exaggerated emotions

* Narcissistic personality disorder: "a pervasive pattern of grandiosity, need for admiration, and a lack of empathy"

* Borderline personality disorder: extreme "black and white" thinking, instability in relationships, self-image, identity and behavior

Image Editor

- **Psychopaths** are unique and different from people with APD because…
  - They are **not neurotic** (don't suffer from anxiety or depressive disorders)
  - They are **not psychotic** (do not suffer from bipolar or schizophrenic disorders)
 - **They do not suffer from emotional disturbances**

Absence of an established definition of the disorder

O'Kane, Fawcett, & Blackburn, 1996
Skeem, Polaschek, Patrick, & Lilienfeld, 2011

Definition

- Cleckley (1941)
  - superficial charm
  - absence of delusions
  - absence of "nervousness"
  - unreliability
  - untruthfulness; (6)
  - lack of remorse and shame
  - antisocial behaviour
  - poor judgement and failure to learn by experience
  - pathological egocentricity
  - poverty in affective reactions
  - loss of insight
  - unresponsiveness in interpersonal relations
  - fantastic and uninviting behaviour
  - suicide rarely carried out
  - impersonal sex life
  - failure to follow any life plan
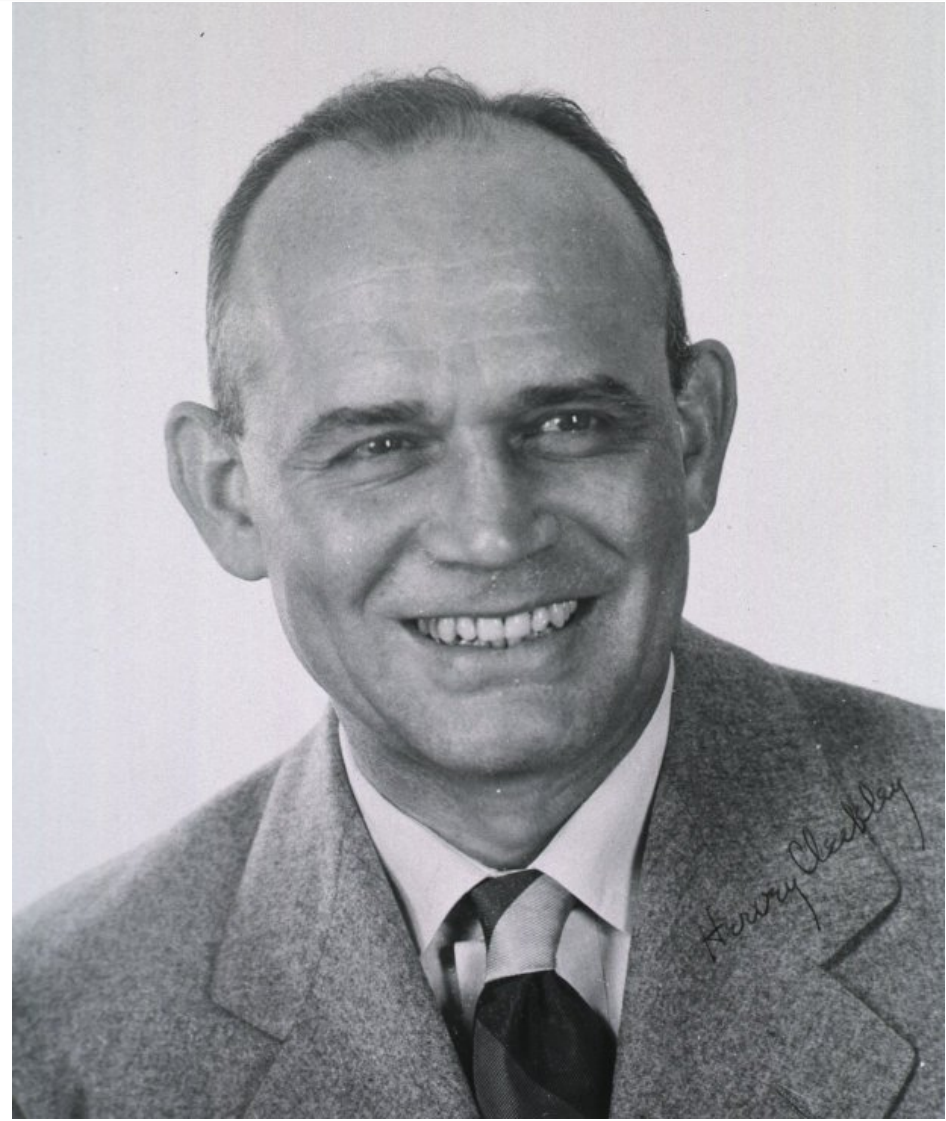
Definition

- Levenson (LPSP; Levenson, Kiehl, & Fitzpatrick, 1995) consists of two dimensions.
  - primary psychopathy (PCL-R factor 1)
  - secondary psychopathy (PCL-R factor 2)

- Psychopathic Personality Inventory-Revised (PPI-R; Lilienfeld & Widows, 2005) contains items referring to antisocial behaviour and aggressiveness.
  - It consists of 154 items which may limit its usefulness with prisoners, who tend to exhibit a short attention span.

Definition – construct

- Hare (1980, 1991, 2015; PCL-R and self reported measures)
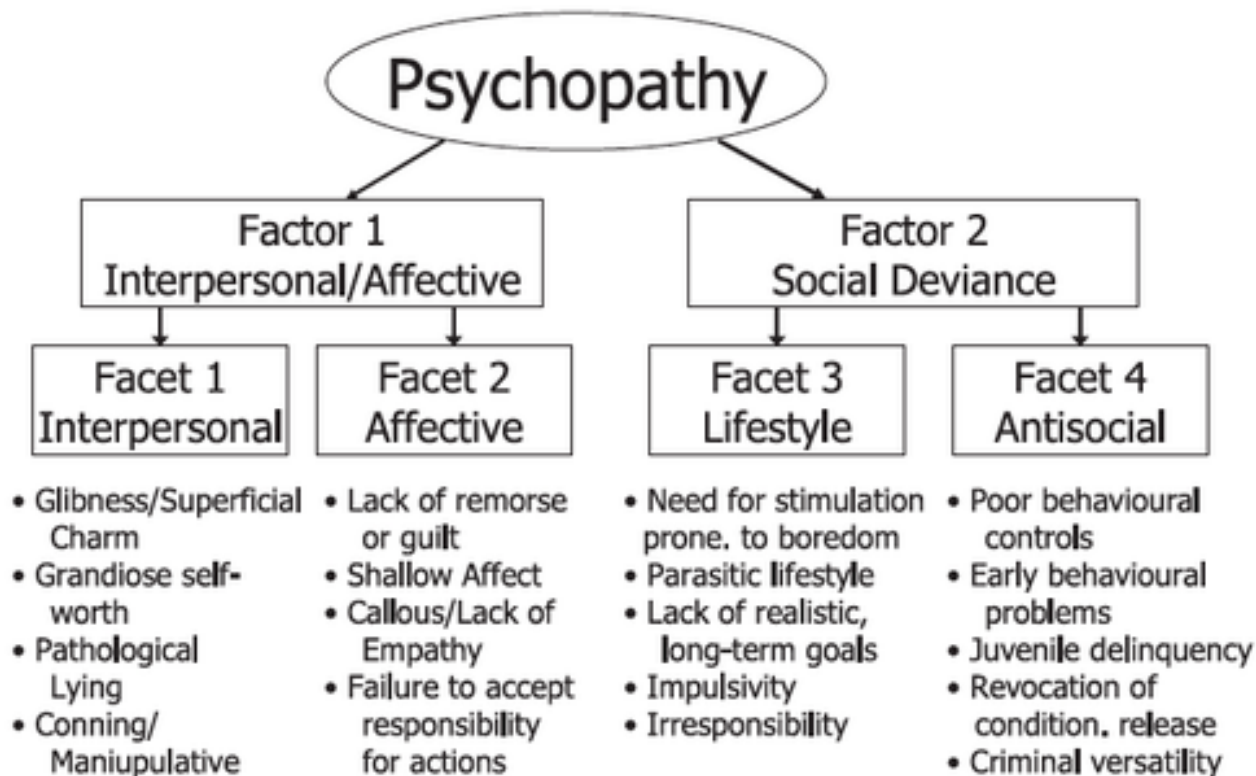
Problems

- Psychopathy as indexed using the PCL-R and its progeny was reported to predict recidivism

- Numerous items relating to antisocial behaviour!!!
  - The exclusion of factor 4 of the PCL-R (items that relate to antisocial behaviour) reduces the predictive validity of the measure (Cooke & Michie, 2001; Cooke et al., 2006; Kennealy et al., 2010; Walters 2004).

Problems

- PCL-R factor 1 (affective/interpersonal) corresponds with Cleckley's original conceptualization of psychopathic personality

- Factor 2 (lifestyle/antisocial) resembles the measures of criminal behaviour and Antisocial Personality Disorder (APD) (Harpur et al., 1989).
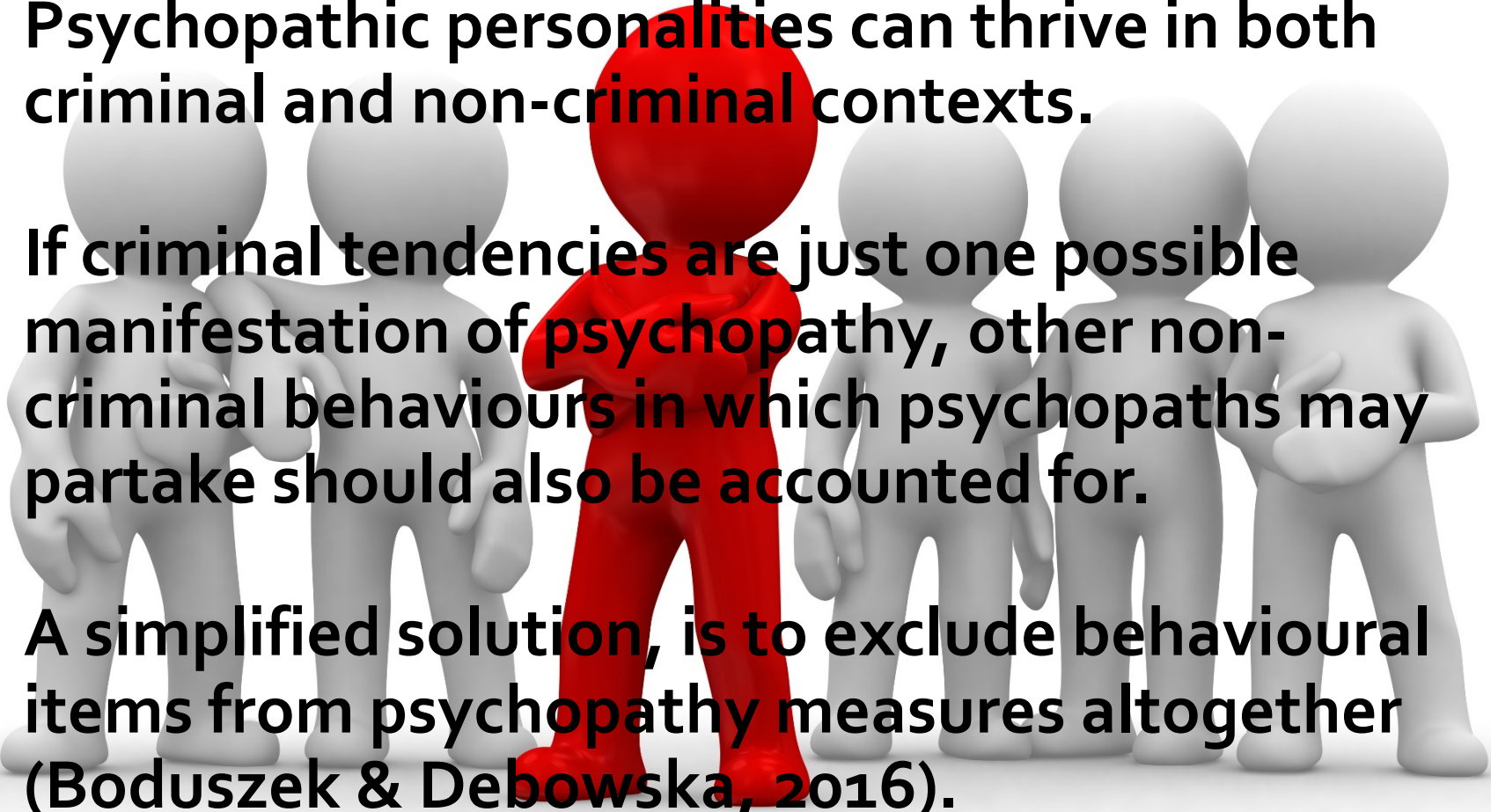
Problems

- Factor 1 items work equivalently well across race and gender (e.g., Bolt et al., 2004; Cooke et al., 2001)

- Factor 2 items - antisocial traits diminish over time (Blonigen et al., 2006; Gill & Crino, 2012)

- Debowska, Boduszek, Dhingra & DeLisi (2016) research on the validity and factor structure of the SRP-SF among forensic and non-forensic samples demonstrated factorial variance.
  - The inspection of factor loadings suggested that these results were heavily influenced by the scores on antisocial behaviour factor items.
  - Items referring to criminal/antisocial tendencies should not be included in psychopathy measures.
  - Findings provide important empirical evidence that affective/interpersonal items lie closer to the core of psychopathy.

Problems

- Factor 2 appears to be a possible behavioural outcome of a psychopathic personality (Boduszek & Debowska, 2016; Boduszek et al., 2015; Skeem & Cooke, 2010).

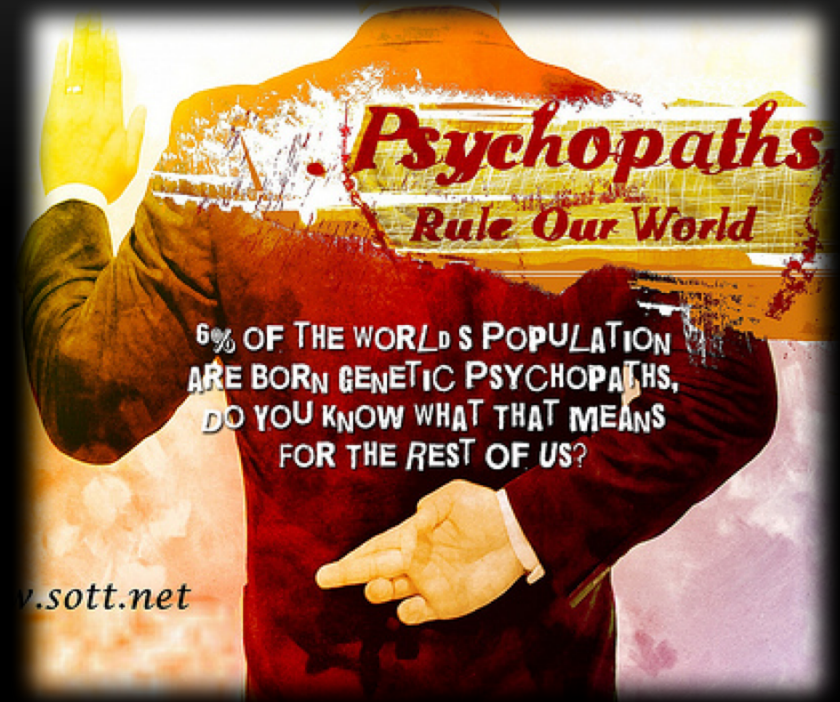# Problems

- **Psychopathic personalities can thrive in both criminal and non-criminal contexts.**

- **If criminal tendencies are just one possible manifestation of psychopathy, other non-criminal behaviours in which psychopaths may partake should also be accounted for.**

- **A simplified solution, is to exclude behavioural items from psychopathy measures altogether (Boduszek & Debowska, 2016).**

Criminal Psychopathy

- Most psychopaths are not criminals and may be highly successful members of society
  - Politicians, business leaders, surgeons etc.

- **Criminal psychopaths** are those psychopaths who engage in repeated criminal behaviour

Psychopaths Rule Our World

6% OF THE WORLDS POPULATION ARE BORN GENETIC PSYCHOPATHS, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS FOR THE REST OF US?

v.sott.net

PSYCHOPATHS IN POWER
no conscience no empathy no emotion no guilt no remorse no soul?

They know they are different. Did you?

Problems

- Cleckley - "the psychopath is always distinguished by **egocentricity**" which is pathological

- This self-centeredness is closely linked with incapacity for love, other than self-love.

- Although items referring to egocentricity have been included in some established psychopathy measures (e.g., the PCL-R and PPI-R), they do not form a **separate dimension**.

- As such, the predictive utility of egocentricity over the remaining traits cannot be established.

Rationale

- It may also be that psychopaths' egocentricity and reduced affectivity influence their ability to recognize other individuals' emotional states (cognitive responsiveness)

Rationale

- Thus, given the broad spectrum of activities in which psychopaths may engage, the inclusion of behavioural items in psychopathy scales appears counterproductive.

- There was a need for a clean personality measure of psychopathy with predictive utility for antisocial behaviour, which could be used among both forensic and non-forensic populations (Boduszek & Debowska, 2016; Johansson et al., 2002).

- In line with Skeem and Cooke's (2010) claim, new generation of research which "distinguishes between personality deviation and social deviance" is warranted.

Aim

- Our goal was to design a measure which would grasp the essence of a psychopathic personality (i.e., affective responsiveness, cognitive responsiveness, interpersonal manipulation, and egocentricity), regardless of respondents' age, gender, cultural background, and criminal history.
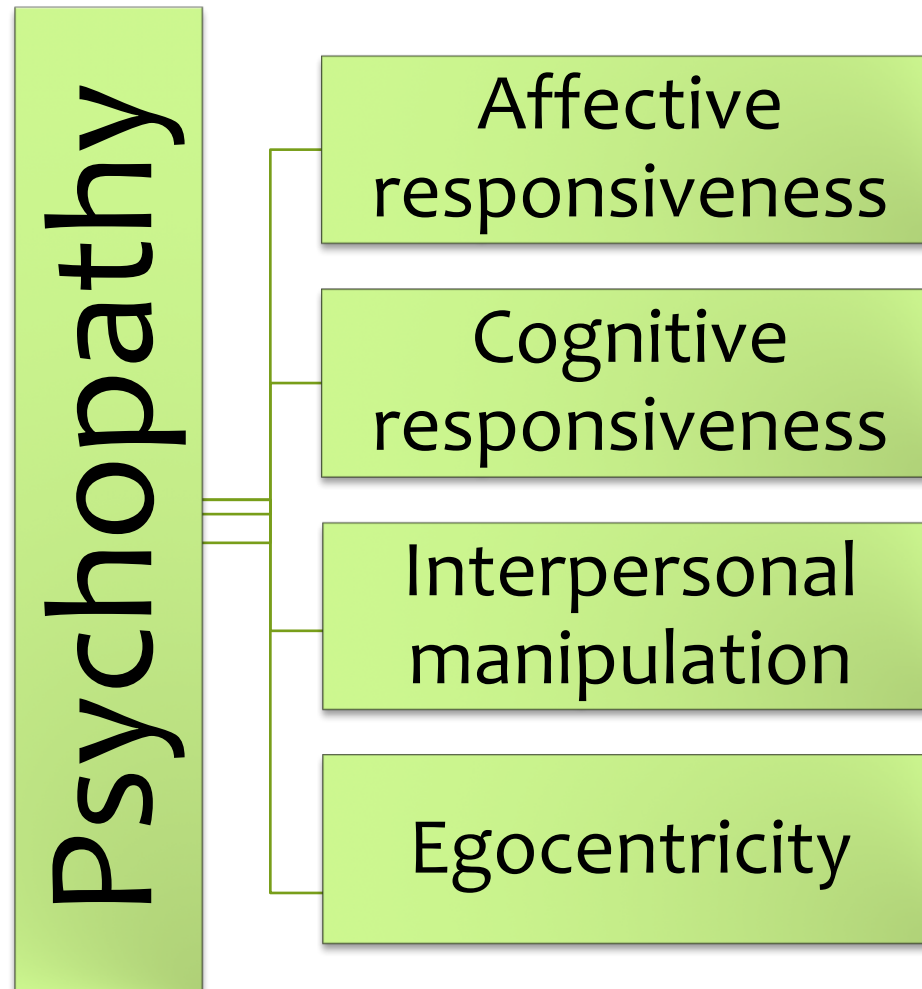
Psychopathic Personality Traits Scale (PPTS)

- 20-item self-report questionnaire designed to assess psychopathy in forensic and non-forensic samples
- 4 subscales
  - **Affective responsiveness** - 5 items concerning characteristics of low empathy and emotional shallowness

  - **Cognitive responsiveness** - 5 items concerning the ability to understand others' emotional states, mentally represent another person's emotional processes, and engage with others' emotionally at a cognitive level

  - **Interpersonal manipulation** - 5 items concerning characteristics such as superficial charm, grandiosity, and dishonesty

  - **Egocentricity** - 5 items concerning individual's tendency to focus on one's own interests, beliefs, and attitudes

Validation in Prison Population

SAMPLING PROCEDURE
*Random selection of 10 prisons (5 maximum and 5 medium security)

*Systematic sampling within each prison

*Stratification was based on: prison blocks, level of recidivism, type of criminals

SAMPLE N = 1,794 prisoners (1,261 for this analysis)

- 749 thieves
- 522 burglars
- 246 drug dealers
- 488 general violent offenders
- 35 sex offenders
- 208 white collar criminals
- 117 murderers

Please note that some participants indicated having committed more than one crime

Analysis & Results

	χ^2	df	CFI	TLI	RMSEA (90% CI)	WRMR
1. One Factor Model	2087.34***	170	.64	.60	.102 (.098/.106)	3.15
2. Three Factor Model	1302.43***	167	.79	.76	.079 (.075/.083)	2.47
3. Bifactor Model (3 grouping factors)	710.18***	150	.90	.87	.059 (.054/.063)	1.66
4. MTMM Model (3 factors with 2 method factors	421.32***	143	.95	.93	.042 (.038/.047)	1.16
5. Four Factor Model	1162.52***	164	.81	.78	.075 (.071/.079)	2.31
6. Bifactor Model (4 grouping factors)	1308.02***	150	.78	.73	.084 (.080/.089)	2.38
7. MTMM Model (4 factors with 2 method factors)	**403.39***	**146**	**.96**	**.95**	**.040 (.036/.045)**	**1.15**

Note. $\chi 2$ = chi square goodness of fit statistic; df = degrees of freedom; CFI = Comparative Fit Index; TLI = Tucker Lewis Index; RMSEA = Root-Mean-Square Error of Approximation; CI = Confidence Interval; WRMR = Weighted Root Mean Square Residual.
*** indicates $\chi 2$ is statistically significant (p < .001).

MTMM Model of PPTS
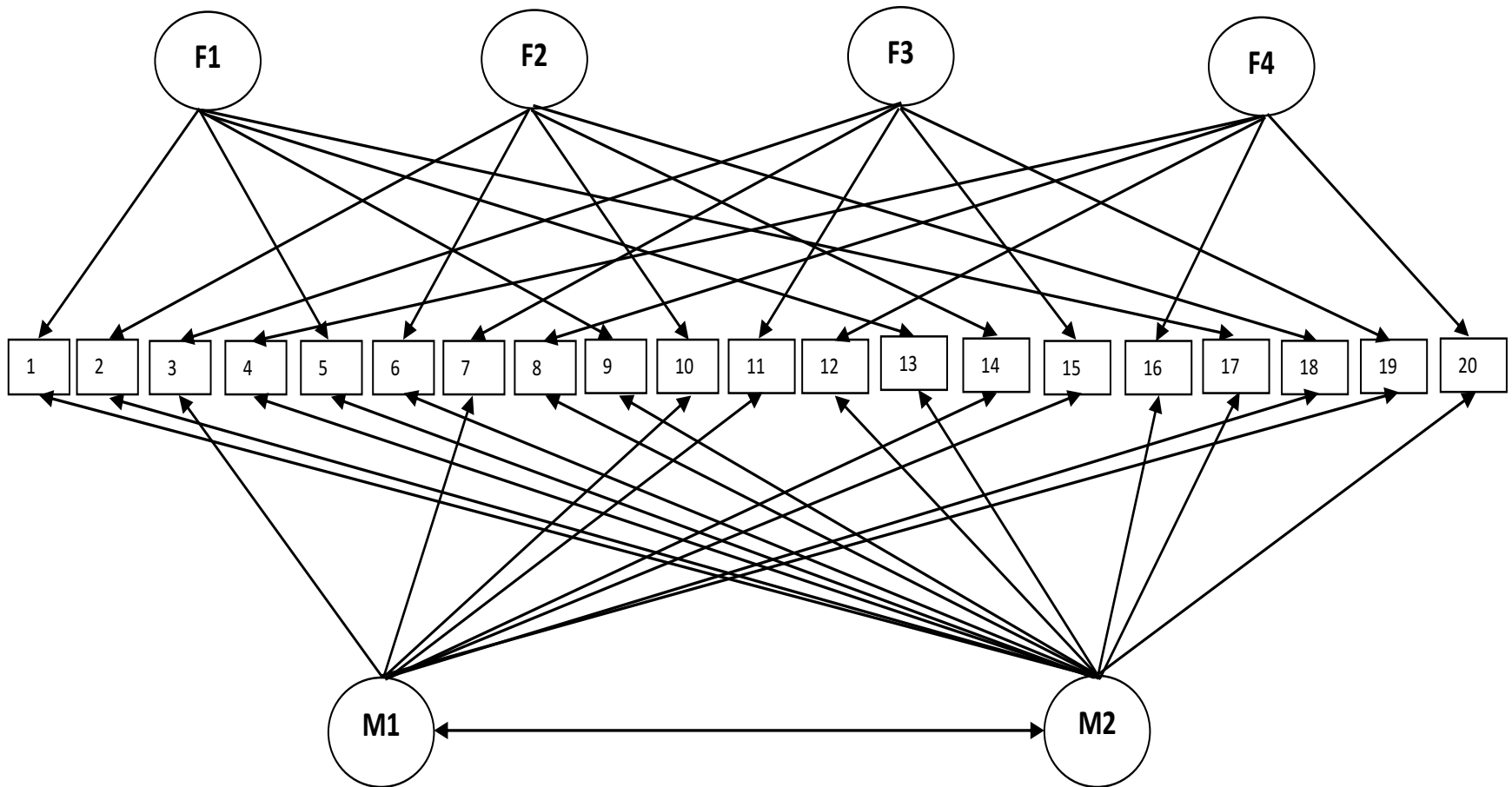
F1 = affective responsiveness, F2 = cognitive responsiveness, F3 = interpersonal manipulation, F4 = egocentricity, M1 = knowledge/skills, and M2 = attitudes/beliefs.

Predictive Validity of PPTS

Variable	CSAMS (10% variance) β (95% CI)	AMDV-Sex (21% variance) β (95% CI)	CSI (19% variance) β (95% CI)	SE (8% variance) β (95% CI)	Violence OR (95% CI)
Affective responsiveness	-.01 (-.08/.07)	.20*** (.13/.27)	.14*** (.07/.21)	.10** (.02/.17)	1.14** (1.02/1.27)
Cognitive responsiveness	.06* (.01/.12)	.15*** (.09/.22)	.03 (-.03/.10)	-.10** (-.17/-.03)	1.04 (.94/1.15)
Interpersonal manipulation	.12*** (.06/.19)	.04 (-.02/.12)	.22*** (.16/.29)	-.07* (-.13/-.01)	.99 (.92/1.09)
Egocentricity	.17*** (.10/.25)	.15*** (.08/.22)	.12*** (.06/.19)	-.06 (-.13/.01)	89* (.81/.99)

Note. First four columns present results from multiple regression analyses; last column presents results from binary logistic regression. CSAMS = Child Sexual Abuse Myth Scale; AMDV-Sex = Attitudes Towards Male Sexual Dating Violence; CSI = Criminal Social Identity; SE = Self-esteem; Violence (1 = violent offences and 0 = non-violent offences).
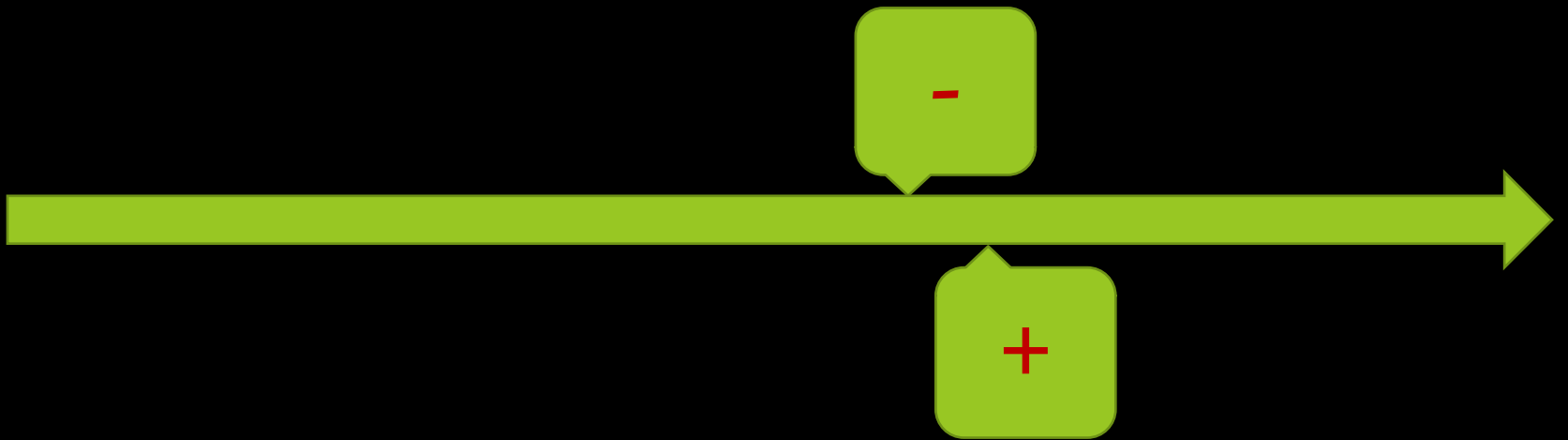*p < .05, **p < .01, *** p < .001

Prevalence of Psychopathy

- Psychopathy should be thought of as existing along a **continuum**
  - Not an either-or situation

- It is estimated that 1% - 2% of the general population would meet the criteria to be classified as a psychopath (Hare, 1998)

- Within the adult prison population, 15-25% are classified as psychopaths

Problem with categorisation

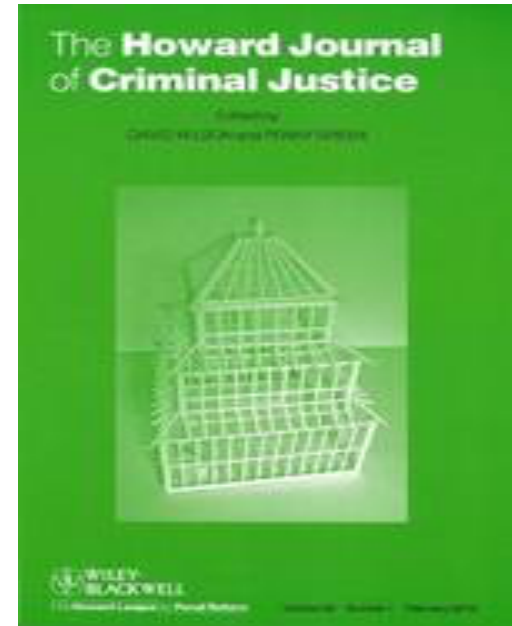# My research on Psychopathy Checklist: Screening Version (Dhingra, Boduszek & Kola, 2015)

A Latent Class Analysis of Psychopathic Traits in Civil Psychiatric Patients: The Role of Criminal Behaviour, Violence, and Gender

KATIE DHINGRA, DANIEL BODUSZEK, and SUSANNA KOLA-PALMER

*Katie Dhingra is Lecturer in Psychology, Manchester Metropolitan University;
Daniel Boduszek is Reader in Criminal Psychology and Susanna Kola-Palmer
is Senior Lecturer in Psychology, University of Huddersfield*

Abstract: This study aimed to determine whether distinct subgroups of psychopathic traits exist in a sample of civil psychiatric patients, using data from the MacArthur Violence Risk Assessment Project (n = 810), by means of latent class analysis. Multinomial logistic regression was used to interpret the nature of the latent classes, or groups, by estimating the associations with criminal behaviour, violence, and gender. The best fitting latent class model was a 4-class solution: a 'high psychopathy class' (class 1; 26.4%), an 'intermediate psychopathy class' (class 2; 16.0%), a 'low affective-interpersonal and high antisocial-lifestyle psychopathy class' (class 3; 31.3%), and a 'normative class' (class 4; 26.3%). Each of the latent classes was predicted by differing external variables. Psychopathy is
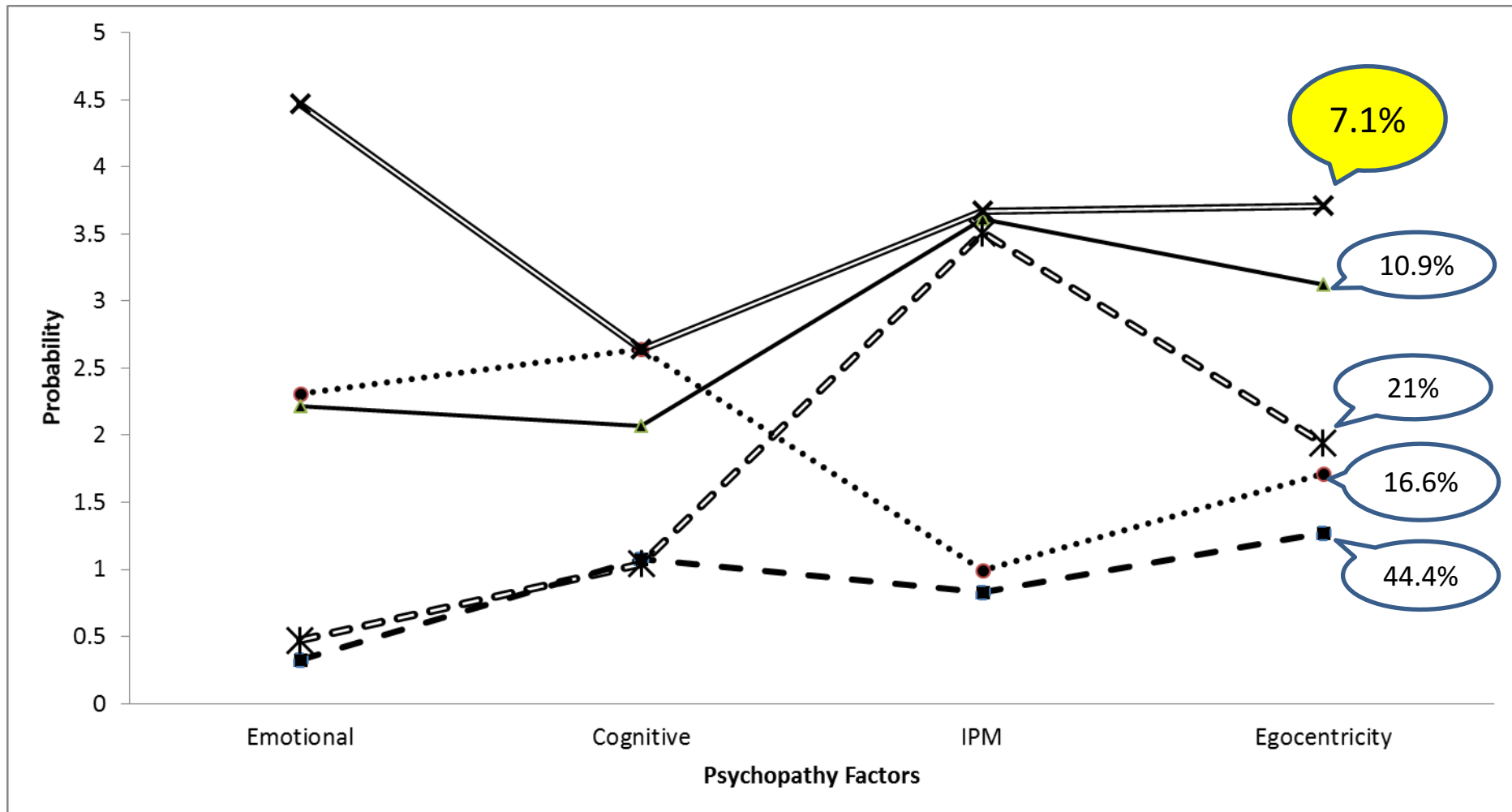
The **Howard Journal** of **Criminal Justice**

My research on Psychopathy Checklist: Screening Version (Dhingra, Boduszek & Kola, 2015)
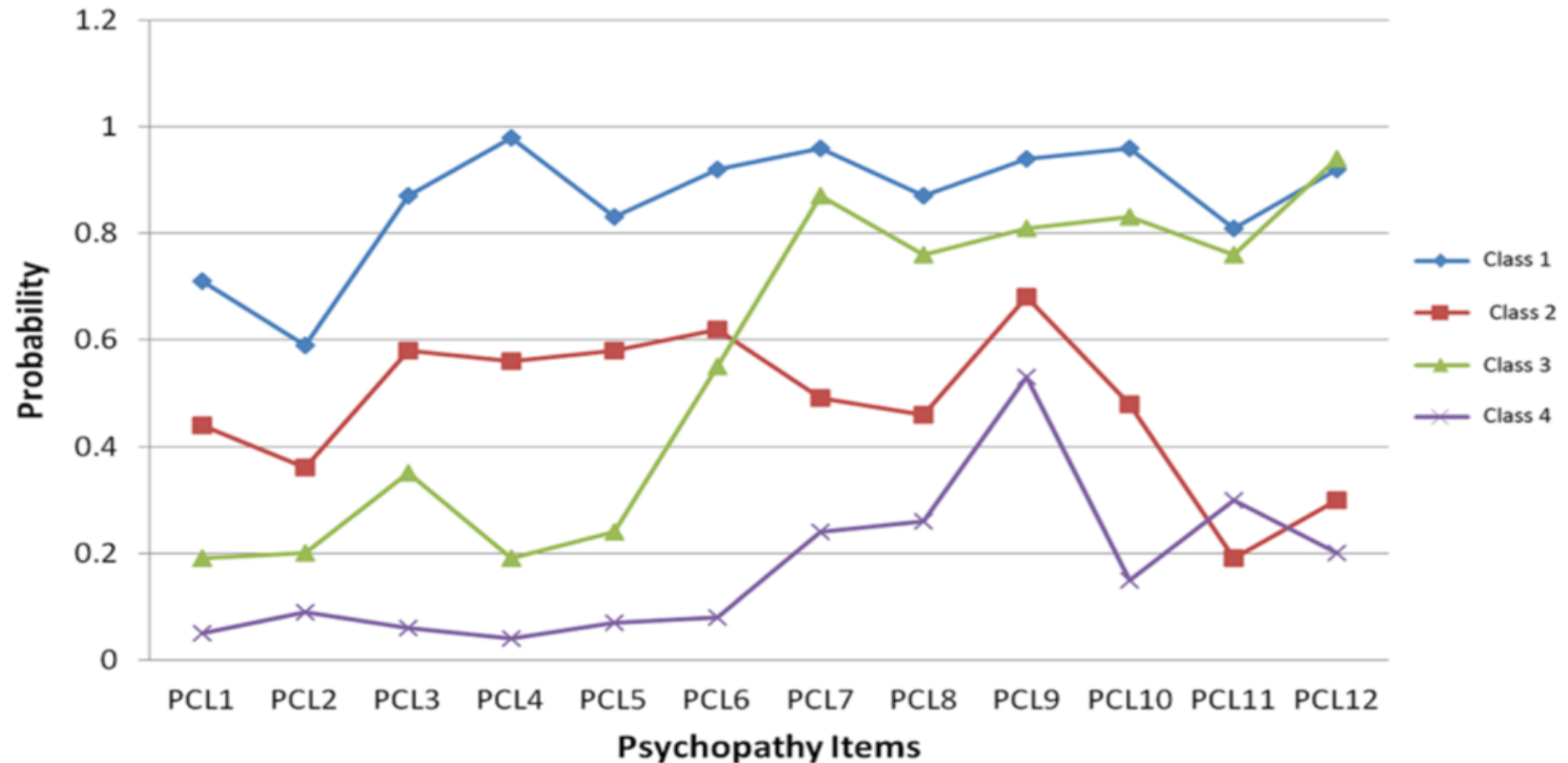
(*Notes*: class 4 = 26.3% of cases; class 3 = 31.3% cases; class 2 = 16.0% of cases; class 1 = 26.4% cases.)

FIGURE 1
Latent Class Profile Plot of Psychopathy

My research - PPTS Profile among prisoners (Boduszek et al., 2016)

Recommendations

- Shamay-Tsoory et al. (2010) found that prisoners with increased psychopathic traits were lacking in understanding affective states (emotions) but not cognitive states (beliefs).

- Our findings suggest that reduced **cognitive responsiveness** to others' emotional states constitutes an important and separate part of the psychopathy construct.

- However, it may also be that this ability is affected by a psychopath's level of IQ (see Bate, Boduszek, Dhingra, & Bale, 2014).

- Future research using the PPTS should control for participants' IQ.

Psychopaths

Psychopaths tend to display remarkable verbal fluency and an extensive vocabulary (**INTELLIGENCE!!!**)

My research

Psychopathy, intelligence and emotional responding in a non-forensic sample: an experimental investigation

Carolyn Bate, Daniel Boduszek*, Katie Dhingra and Christopher Bale

*University of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, UK*

This study examined the relationships between psychopathy (primary and secondary), intelligence and emotional responding in a sample of 50 university students, using a task measuring autonomic responses to 40 pictorial stimuli (20 neutral and 20 emotionally provoking). Results indicated no significant direct relationship between primary or secondary psychopathy and emotional response, or primary or secondary psychopathy and intelligence. However, a significant moderating effect of intelligence on the association between both psychopathy factors and emotional response was observed, indicating those scoring higher on psychopathy but with lower intelligence portray the expected emotional responses to the affective stimuli (primary: $\beta = -.56$, $p < .05$; secondary: $\beta = .80$, $p < .001$). These findings indicate abnormal reactivity to emotional stimuli in lower intelligence, higher psychopathic individuals, and suggest differing roles for the two facets of psychopathy in affective responsiveness deviations.

1. Introduction

Psychopathy is characterised by a distinct cluster of interpersonal (e.g. deceit-
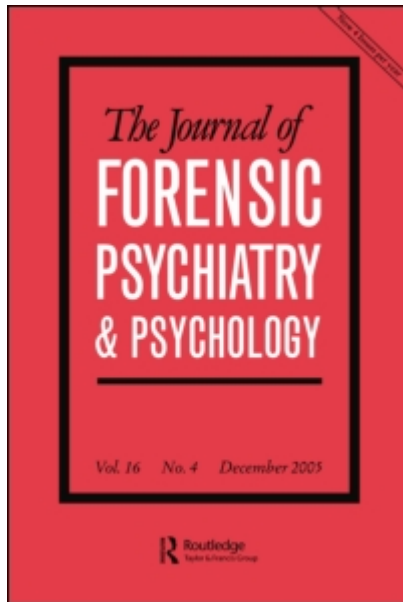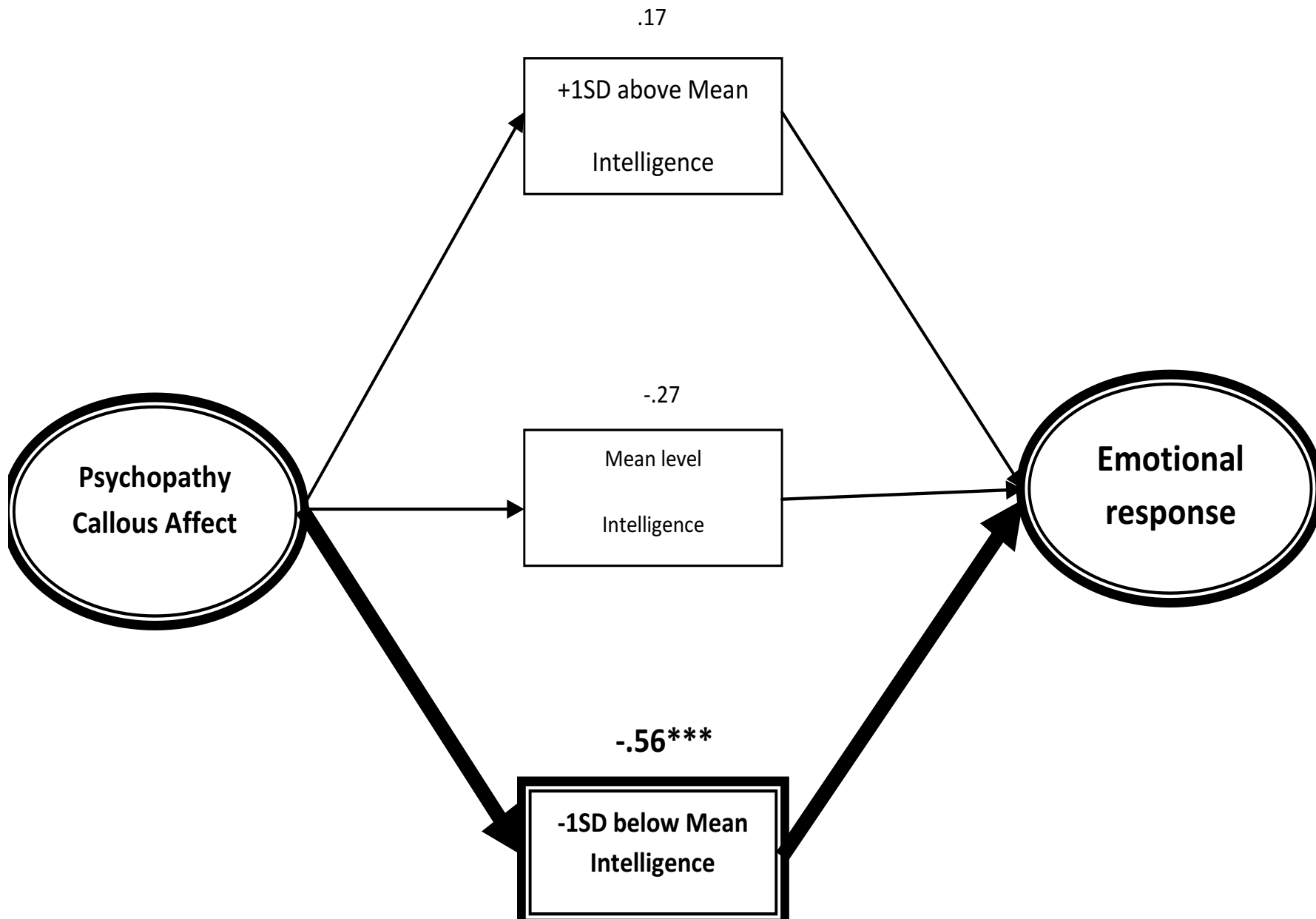
Next step

- **Future studies**

  – **non-forensic populations (e.g., community and student sample)**

  – **Check list**

Thank you for your time!

Questions?

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