Psychopathy

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Not to be confused with Psychosis, Psychopathology, Psychic, or Sycophant. *Psychopaths* redirects here. For the film, see Psychopaths (film).

Psychopathy is traditionally a personality disorder characterized by persistent antisocial behavior, impaired empathy and remorse, and bold, disinhibited, and egotistical traits. It is sometimes considered synonymous with sociopathy. Different conceptions of psychopathy have been used throughout history that are only partly overlapping and may sometimes be contradictory.[4]

Hervey M. Cleckley, an American psychiatrist, influenced the initial diagnostic criteria for antisocial personality reaction/disturbance in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), as did American psychologist George E. Partridge. The DSM and International Classification of Diseases (ICD) subsequently introduced the diagnoses of antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) and dissociative personality disorder (DPD) respectively, stating that these diagnoses have been referred to (or include what is referred to) as psychopathy or sociopathy. The creation of ASPD and DPD was driven by the fact that many of the classic traits of psychopathy were impossible to measure objectively. Canadian psychologist Robert D. Hare later repopularized the construct of psychopathy in criminology with his Psychopathy Checklist.[4][7][10][11]

Although no psychiatric or psychological organization has sanctioned a diagnosis titled “psychopathy”, assessments of psychopathic characteristics are widely used in criminal justice settings in some nations and may have important consequences for individuals. The study of psychopathy is an active field of research, and the term is also used by the general public, popular press, and in fictional portrayals. While the term is often employed in common usage along with "crazy", "insane", and "mentally ill", there is a categorical difference between psychosis and psychopathy.[10]

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Psychopathy

| Pronunciation | /psɪˈkəʊpəθi/ |
| Speciality | Psychiatry, clinical psychology |
| Symptoms | Boldness, high self-esteem, lack of empathy, inclination to violence and manipulation, impulsivity |
| Causes | Genetic and environmental |
| Risk factors | Family history, poverty, being neglected by parents |
| Differential diagnosis | Sociopathy, Narcissism, Borderline personality disorder, Bipolar disorder (mania) |
| Prognosis | Poor |
| Frequency | 1% of general population |

Personality disorders

Cluster A (odd)
- Paranoid
- Schizoid
- Schizotypal

Cluster B (dramatic)
- Antisocial
- Borderline
- Histrionic
- Narcissistic

Cluster C (anxious)
- Avoidant
- Dependent
- Obsessive-compulsive
- Paranoid

Cluster D (controlling)
- Narcissistic
- Borderline
- Histrionic
- Antisocial

Cluster E (social)
- Socially anxious
- Socially reserved
- Socially withdrawn

Cluster F (mixed)
- Mixed personality disorder
- Personality disorder not otherwise specified