Psychopathy: Inside the Criminal Mind
How is Psychopathy evaluated?

The Cleckley Psychopath, 1976

- Superficial charm
- Unreliability
- Untruthfulness and insincerity
- Lack of remorse or shame
- Poor judgment
- Failure to learn by experience
- Risk-taking behavior
How is Psychopathy evaluated?

The Cleckley Psychopath, 1976

- Pathologic egocentricity
- Poor affective reactions
- Impaired interpersonal relationships
- Sex life impersonal and poorly integrated
- Failure to follow any life plan

...the psychopathic person is outwardly a perfect mimic of a normally functioning person, able to mask or disguise the fundamental lack of internal personality structure, an internal chaos that results in repeatedly purposeful destructive behavior, often more self-destructive than destructive to others. Despite the seemingly sincere, intelligent, even charming external presentation, internally the psychopathic person does not have the ability to experience genuine emotions.
DSM-IV ASPD Criteria (adapted)

Pervasive pattern of disregard for and violation of the rights of others, as indicated by three (or more) of the following:

- Failure to conform to social contracts (e.g. law)
- Deceitfulness (e.g. repeated lying, conning)
- Impulsivity or failure to plan ahead
- Irritability and aggressiveness
- Reckless disregard for safety or others
- Consistent irresponsibility
- Lack of remorse
The Hare Psychopathy Checklist

- Structured interview
- Collateral information (family, friends)
- Assess nature and severity of psychopathy
- Forensic applications

Bob Hare
The Hare PCL-R

- Superficial charm
  - Appears likable
  - Amusing conversationalist
  - Tells convincing stories
  - Casually uses technical jargon

- Grandiosity
  - Grossly inflated view of self
  - Exaggerated regard for own abilities
  - Sees himself as a victim of the criminal justice system
The Hare PCL-R

- Deceitfulness
  - Pathological lying
  - Will cheat and con others
  - Manipulates others to achieve goals
- Lack of remorse
  - No capacity for guilt
  - No concern for others
  - No concern about negative consequences
The Hare PCL-R

- Lack of Empathy
  - Disregard for welfare of others
  - May appear cold and callous
  - Unable to experience strong emotions

- Doesn’t accept responsibility
  - Avoids taking responsibility for harmful actions
  - Rationalizes harmful behavior
  - Minimizes negative consequences for others
  - Sometimes denies fault altogether
The Hare PCL-R

- Impulsivity
  - Acts without considering consequences
  - Easily bored
  - Short attention span
- Poor behavioral control
  - Easily angered or frustrated
  - May be verbally or physically abusive
- Lacks goals
  - No realistic long-term goals, no consideration for the future
Neurobiology of Psychopathy

- Scanned thousands of inmates across the US using a mobile scanner trailer!

- Psychopathy implicates:
  - orbitofrontal cortex
  - amygdala
  - anterior and posterior cingulate
  - limbic structures

Kent Kiehl
Psychopathy: Discussion points

- Category or continuum?
- Nature vs. nurture?
- Punishment vs. rehabilitation?
- “My Brain Made Me Do it”? 