

Psychopathy in Psychiatry and Philosophy: An Annotated Bibliography

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Compiled by Luca Malatesti

[Institute of Applied Ethics](#)

University of Hull (United Kingdom)

Table of Contents

Using the Bibliography.....	3
Part 1: Psychiatry.....	4
1 General.....	4
2 Diagnostics.....	4
2.1 Adults.....	4
2.2 Children and Adolescents.....	6
2.3 Recidivism.....	7
3 Functional Impairments.....	8
3.1 Lack of Fear/Anxiety.....	8
3.2 Emotional Learning.....	9
3.3 Empathy.....	10
3.4 Moral Reasoning.....	10
3.5 Attention.....	11
4 Information Processing Models.....	11
4.1 Response Modulation Hypothesis.....	11
4.2 Dysfunctional Fear Hypothesis.....	12
4.3 Violence Inhibition Mechanism Model.....	12
5 Neurological Explanations.....	13
5.1 The Left Hemisphere Activation Hypothesis.....	13
5.2 The Frontal Lobe Dysfunction Hypothesis.....	13
5.3 The Somatic Marker Hypothesis.....	13
5.4 The Amygdala Dysfunction Hypothesis.....	14
6 Treatment.....	14
6.1 General.....	14
6.2 Therapeutic Communities.....	15
6.3 Cognitive Behavioural Therapies.....	15
Part 2: Philosophy.....	16
1 Moral Philosophy.....	16
1.1 Criminal Responsibility/Punishment.....	16
1.2 Ethical Implications.....	16
1.3 Moral Responsibility.....	17
Glossary.....	20

Using the Bibliography

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This bibliography is a work in progress and will be updated monthly. The new entries will be preceded by " (New)".

Comments, corrections and suggestions are more than welcome. Please use this e-mail address: l.malatesti@hull.ac.uk.

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Part 1: Psychiatry

1 General

Blair, J., Mitchell, D. and Blair, K. 2005. [*The Psychopath: Emotion and the Brain*](#) (information). Oxford: Blackwell.

A comprehensive critical survey of recent research on the cognitive, emotional and neurological correlates to psychopathy. In addition, the book presents the authors' research on the neural abnormalities that might underlie the disorder (see [section 6.4](#)).

Cleckley, H. M. 1941. [*The Mask of Sanity: An Attempt to Clarify Some Issues about the So-called Psychopathic Personality*](#). 5th edition, St. Louis (Mo) Mosby.

A classic account of psychopathy that has inspired the work of many researchers in the field.

Hare, R. 1970. *Psychopathy: Theory and Practice*. New York: Wiley & Sons.

A important collection of scientific studies on psychopathy.

Hare, R. D. 1999. [*Without Conscience: The Disturbing World of the Psychopaths Among Us*](#) (information). New York, Guildford Press.

A popular and readable presentation of the phenomenon of psychopathy by one of the leading researchers in the field.

Patrick, C. J. ed. 2006. [*Handbook of Psychopathy*](#) (information). New York/London Guildford Press.

A state-of-the art survey of classifications, theoretical models, neurological genetic and social explanations, legal and clinical issues. With contributions by leading researchers in the field of psychopathic personality.

2 Diagnostics

2.1 Adults

American Psychiatric Association. 1994. [*Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th edn.*](#) Washington, D.C. American Psychiatric Association.

This manual, known as DSM-IV, describes the antisocial personality disorder (ASPD). The essential feature of the disorder is "a pervasive pattern of disregard for, and violation of, the rights of others that begins in childhood or early adolescence and continues into adulthood". In order to be classifiable as suffering from APD, an adult (ie over 18 years of age) should display three or more of the following: (1) failure to conform to social norms with respect to lawful behaviours as indicated by repeatedly performing acts that are grounds for arrest (2) deceitfulness, as indicated by repeating lying, use of aliases, or conning others for personal profit or pleasure (3) impulsivity or failure to plan ahead (4) irritability and aggressiveness, as indicated by repeated physical fights or assaults (5) reckless disregard for safety or self or others (6) consistent irresponsibility, as indicated y repeated failure to sustain consistent work behaviour or honour financial obligations (7) lack of remorse, as indicated by being indifferent to or rationalizing having hurt, mistreated, or stolen from another.

Cooke, D. J. and C. Michie. 2001. "[Refining the Construct of Psychopathy: Towards a Hierarchical Model.](#)" *Psychological Assessment* 13: 171-188.

The authors criticise the [two factors analysis](#) of [PCL-R](#). They argue that a more appropriate account should include three factors. The interpersonal/affective factor is separated in an interpersonal and an

abnormal affect component. **Factor I:** *Arrogant and deceitful interpersonal items:* 1. Glibness/superficial charm 2. Grandiose sense of self-worth 4. Pathological lying 5. Conning/manipulative. **Factor II:** *Deficient affective experience:* 6. Lack of remorse or guilt 7. Shallow affect 8. Callous/lack of empathy 16. Failure to accept responsibility for own actions. **Factor III:** 3. Need for stimulation/proneness to boredom 9. Parasitic lifestyle 13. Lack of realistic, long-term goals 14. Impulsivity 15. Irresponsibility. Remaining items that do not fall under any factor: 10. Poor behavioural controls 11. Promiscuous sexual behaviour 12. Early behavioural problems 17. Many short-term marital relationship 18. Juvenile delinquency 19. Revocation of conditional release 20. Criminal versatility. For a three factor analysis of psychopathy in childhood and adolescence, see [Frick and Hare 2001b](#).

Blair, J., Mitchell, D. and Blair, K. 2005. [The Psychopath: Emotion and the Brain](#) (information). Oxford: Blackwell.

[APSD](#) and [PCL-R](#) are preferable to [ASPD](#) because they include criteria concerning emotions. This inclusion individuates a common aetiology due to dysfunctional emotional processing.

Cleckley, H. M. 1941. [The Mask of Sanity: An Attempt to Clarify Some Issues about the So-called Psychopathic Personality](#). 5th edition, St. Louis (Mo) Mosby.

This classic source, that has inspired many current descriptions of psychopathy, suggests 16 criteria for the diagnosis of the disorder: (1) Superficial charm (2) Absence of delusions and other signs of irrational thinking (3) Lack of anxiety (4) Lack of remorse or shame (5) Undependability (6) Dishonesty, untruthfulness insincerity (7) Pathological egocentricity (8) Failure to form lasting intimate relationships (9) Failure to learn from punishment (10) General poverty in major affective relations (11) Lack of insight into the impact of one's behaviour on others (12) Failure to plan ahead (13) Fantastic and uninviting behaviour with drink, and sometimes without. (14) Suicide threats rarely carried out. (15) Sex life impersonal, trivial, and poorly integrated (16) Unresponsiveness in general interpersonal relations.

Hare, R. D. 1980. "[A Research Scale for the Assessment of Psychopathy in Criminal Populations](#)." *Personality and Individual Differences* 1: 111-119.

On the basis of the characteristics delineated in [Cleckley 1941](#) and independent clinical work, Hare offers his original Psychopathy Checklist (PCL) to assess psychopathy in adults. (See [PCL-R](#))

Hare, R. D. 1991. *The Psychopathy Checklist-Revised*. Toronto: Multi-Health Systems.

Revised version (PCL-R) of Hare's original Psychopathy Checklist ([PCL](#)). The [PCL-R](#) includes 20 behavioural items and is scored on data collected in an extensive file review and a semi-structured interview. For each behavioural item, an individual can score between 0 and 2 points. Individuals scoring 30 or above in the [PCL-R](#) are generally considered psychopathic, while those scoring less than 20 are considered non-psychopathic. Hare argues that [PCL-R](#) is superior to [ASPD](#) because, by following [Cleckley 1941](#), it considers the individual's behaviour and his personality. For criticism see Moran 1999.

Hare, R. D. 2003. *The Psychopathy Checklist-Revised*, 2nd Edition. Toronto: Multi-Health Systems.

Hare, R. D., T. J. Harpur, A. R. Hakstian, A. E. Forth, and S. D. Hart. 1990. "[The Revised Psychopathy Checklist: Reliability and Factor Structure](#)." *Psychological Assessment* 2: 338-3.

Harpur, T. J., A. R. Hakstian, and R. D. Hare. 1988. "[Factor Structure of the Psychopathy Checklist](#)." *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 56: 741-747.

Shows that the original Psychopathy Checklist (PCL) ([Hare 1980](#)) is composed of two correlated factors: interpersonal/affective and impulsive/antisocial lifestyles items.

Harpur, T. J., R. D. Hare, and A. R. Hakstian. 1989. "[Two-Factor Conceptualization of Psychopathy: Construct Validity and Assessment Implications](#)." *Psychological Assessment* 1: 6-17.

This study carries forward a factor analysis of the Psychopathy Checklist Revised ([PCL-R](#)). It emerges that [PCL-R](#) is composed of two correlated factors. Factor I: interpersonal/affective *items:* 1. Glib/superficial charm 2. Grandiose sense of self-worth 4. Pathological Lying 5. Conning/manipulative 6

Lack of remorse or guilt 7. Shallow affect 8. Callous/lack of empathy 6. Failure to accept responsibility for own actions. *Factor II: Impulsive/antisocial lifestyle items* 3. Need for Stimulation/proneness to boredom 9. Parasitic lifestyle 10. Poor behavioural controls 12. Early behavioural problems 13. Lack of realistic, long-term goals 14. Impulsivity 15. Irresponsibility 18. Juvenile delinquency 19. Revocation of conditional release. Items in the [PCL-R](#) that fail to fall on either factor: 11. Promiscuous sexual behaviour 17. Many short-term marital affairs 20. Criminal versatility.

Hart, S., D. Cox, and R. Hare. 1995. *The Hare Psychopathy Checklist - Revised Screening Version*. Toronto: Multi-Health Systems.

Hobson, J. and J. Shine. 1998. "[Measurement of Psychopathy in a UK Prison Population Referred for Long-Term Psychotherapy](#)." *British Journal of Criminology* 38: 504-515.

Lilienfeld S. O. and B. P. Andrews. 1996. "[Development and Preliminary Validation of a Self-Report Measure of Psychopathic Personality Traits in Noncriminal Populations](#)." *Journal of Personality Assessment* 66; 488-524.

This paper illustrates and assesses the Psychopathic Personality Inventory (PPP). This inventory consists of 163 items and offers a global index of psychopathy with eight subscales: "Machiavellian egocentricity", "social potency", "fearlessness", "coldheartedness", "impulsive nonconformity", "blame externalization", "carefree nonplanfulness", and "stress immunity".

Moran, P. 1999. *Antisocial Personality Disorder: An Epidemiological Perspective*. London: Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Molto, J., R. Poy, and R. Torrubia. 2000. "[Standardization of the Hare Psychopathy Checklist - Revised in a Spanish prison sample](#)." *Journal of Personality Disorders* 14: 84-96.

Study on Spanish inmates that confirms the [two factors analysis](#) of [PCL-R](#)

Pham, T. H. 1998. "[Psychometric Evaluation of Hare's Psychopathy Checklist - Revised Amongst a Population of Incarcerated Belgian Prisoners](#)." *L'Encephale* 24: 435-441.

Study on Belgian inmates that confirms the [two factors analysis](#) of [PCL-R](#).

Wootton, B. 1959. *Social Science and Social Pathology*. London: George Allen and Unwin.

Argues that the diagnosis of psychopathy available at the time is circular: mental abnormality is inferred by criminal behaviour that is explained in terms of mental abnormality (p. 250). Wootton's argument is based on dated conceptions of psychopathy, but there were also reasons for scepticism at the time, see [Haksar 1965](#).

2.2 Children and Adolescents

Forth, A. E., D. S. Kosson, and R. D. Hare. 2003. *The Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version*. Toronto, Ontario: Multi-Health Systems.

Frick, P. J. and R. D. Hare. 2001a. *The Antisocial Process Screening Device*. Toronto, Ontario: Multi-Health Systems.

APSD is an assessment tool for psychopathy in childhood and adolescence based on developments of Hare's ([PCL-R](#)) (Hare 2003, Hart 1995). The APSD is scored on the basis of parental/teacher reviews. See also [Kosson et al. 2002](#).

Frick, P. J. and R. D. Hare. 2001b. *Antisocial Process Screening Device (APSD) Technical Manual*. Toronto, Ontario: Multi-Health Systems.

Kosson, D. S., Cyterski T. D., B. L. Steuerwald, C. S. Neumann, and S. Walker-Matthews. 2002.

["The Reliability and Validity of the Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version \(PCL:YV\)." *Psychological Assessment* 14: 97-109.](#)

2.3 Recidivism

Hare, R. D., D. Clark, M. Grann, and D. Thornton. 2000. ["Psychopathy and the Predictive Validity of the P.C. L-R an International Perspective."](#) *Behavioral Sciences and the Law* 18: 623-645.

An international study of 278 offenders. While 82 percent of individuals with psychopathy (PCL-R) reoffended, 40 of non-psychopathic individuals were reconvicted.

Hare, R. D., A. E. Forth, and Strachan, K. E. 1992. "Psychopathy and Crime across the Life Span." In R. D. Peters, R. J. McMahon, & V. L. Quinsey (Eds.), *Aggression and violence throughout the lifespan* (pp. 285–300). Newbury Park: Sage Publications.

Hare, R. D., L. M. McPherson. 1984. "Violent and Aggressive Behavior by Criminal Psychopaths." *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 7, 35–50.

Hare, R. D., C. E. Strachan, and A. E. Forth. 1993. "Psychopathy and crime: A review." In K. Howells, & C. R. Hollin (Eds.), *Clinical Approaches to the Mentally Disordered Offender*. Chichester: Wiley, pp. 165–178.

Hart, S. D., P. R. Kropp, and R. D. Hare. 1988. ["Performance of Male Psychopaths Following Conditional Release from Prison."](#) *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 56: 227-232.

Show the usefulness of PCL-R in predicting reoffending. Within 3 years, 25 per cent of non-psychopathic individuals had been re-incarcerated. 80 per cent of the individuals with psychopathy had breached the terms of their release.

Grann, M., N. Langstrom, A. Tengstrom, and G. Kullgren. 1999. ["Psychopathy \(P. C. L-R\) Predicts Violent Recidivism Among Criminal Offenders with Personality Disorder in Sweden."](#) *Law and Human Behavior* 23: 205-217.

Hemphill, J. F., R. D. Hare, and S. Wong. 1998. "Psychopathy and Recidivism a Review." *Legal and Criminological Psychology* 3: 737-745.

A comprehensive review of studies on psychopathy and recidivism. The authors conclude that individuals with psychopathy (PCL-R diagnosis) are three time more likely than non-psychopathic offenders to reoffend. For other studies that support this higher correlation, see Hart et al. 1998, Hare et al. 2000, Serin and Amos 1995, Grann et al. 1999. Moreover, this study shows that recidivism is more correlated with the PCL-R diagnosis of psychopathy than with the DSM-IV diagnosis of ASPD.

Serin, R. C. and N. L. Amos. 1995. ["The Role of Psychopathy in the Assessment of Dangerousness."](#) *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* 18: 231-238.

This study on the correlation of psychopathy (PCL-R) and recidivism considers 299 offenders within a period of 3 years. 65 per cent of individuals with psychopathy and 25 non-psychopaths were convicted of a new offence.

Wilson, N. J. 2003. [The Utility of the Psychopathy Checklist- Screening Version for Predicting Serious Violent Recidivism in a New Zealand Offender Sample.](#) PhD Thesis, University of Waikato.

3 Functional Impairments

3.1 Lack of Fear/Anxiety

Cleckley, H. M. 1976. *The mask of sanity an attempt to clarify some issues about the so-called psychopathic personality*. St. Louis (Mo) Mosby.

Eysenck, H. 1964. *Crime and Personality*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Flor, H., Birbaumer N., C. Hermann, S. Ziegler, and C. J. Patrick. 2002. "[Aversive Pavlovian Conditioning in Psychopaths Peripheral and Central Correlates](#)." *Psychophysiology* 39: 505-518.

Frick, P. J., S. O. Lilienfield, M. Ellis, B. Loney, and P. Silverthorn. 1999. "[The Association Between Anxiety and Psychopathy Dimensions in Children](#)." *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology* 27, 5: 383-392.

Gray, J. A. 1987. *The Psychology of Fear and Stress*, 2nd edn. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hare, R. D. 1965. "Psychopathy, Fear Arousal and Anticipated Pain." *Psychological Reports* 16: 499-502.

Shows that psychopathic offenders, when anticipating painful stimuli, manifest significantly smaller electrodermal responses than non-psychopathic offenders. Moreover, psychopaths' electrodermal responses closer to the time of administration of the shock. For similar results, see Hare 1982, Hare et al. 1978, Ogloff and Wong 1990.

Hare, R. D. 1982. "Psychopathy and Physiological Activity During Anticipation of an Aversive Stimulus in a Distraction Paradigm." *Psychophysiology* 19: 266-271.

Hare, R. D., J. Frazelle, and D. N. Cox. 1978. "Psychopathy and Physiological Responses to Threat of an Aversive Stimulus." *Psychophysiology* 15: 165-172.

Hare, R. D. and M. J. Quinn. 1971. "Psychopathy and Autonomic Conditioning." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 77: 223-235.

Ogloff, J. R. and S. Wong. 1990. "Electrodermal and Cardiovascular Evidence of a Coping Response in Psychopaths." *Criminal Justice and Behaviour* 17: 231-245.

Patrick, C. J. 1994. "Emotion and Psychopathy Startling New Insights." *Psychophysiology* 31: 319-330.

Patrick, C. J., B. N. Cuthbert, and P. J. Lang. 1994 "[Emotion in the Criminal Psychopath: Fear Image Processing](#)." 103, 3: 523-534.

While comparison individuals show strong physiological reactions to imagined frightening situations ("Taking a shower I hear the sound of someone forcing the door"), psychopaths show reduced reactions to these events.

Patrick, C., M. M. Bradley, and P. J. Lang. 1994. "[Emotion in the Criminal Psychopath: Startle Reflex Modulation](#)." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 102: 82-92.

Psychopathic offenders, in comparison to non-psychopathic subjects, present a reduced [startle reflex](#) following negative primes.

Lykken, D. T. 1957. "A Study of Anxiety in the Sociopathic Personality." *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology* 55: 6-10.

This classic study demonstrates how the impaired aversive conditioning of psychopaths results in low fearfulness. Both psychopath and comparison individuals were exposed to repeated successions of the

sound of a buzzer (Conditioned Stimulus or CS) and the infliction of innocuous but painful electroshock (Aversive Unconditioned Stimulus) that induces sweating and electrodermal changes (Unconditioned Responses). While in non-psychopaths the CS would alone induce sweating and, therefore, electrodermal changes, psychopaths would not show this conditioning. For similar results see Hare and Quinn (1971), and Flor *et al.* (2002).

Schmitt, W. A. and J. P. Newman. 1999. "[Are All Psychopathic Individuals Low-Anxious?](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 108: 353-358.

Trasler, G. B. 1973. "Criminal Behaviour." In H. J. Eysenk, ed. *Handbook of Abnormal Psychology*. London: Pitman.

Verona, E., J. J. Curtin, and T. E. Joiner. 2001. "[Psychopathy, Antisocial Personality, and Suicide Risk.](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 110, 3: 462-470.

3.2 Emotional Learning

Blair, R. J. R., E. Colledge, Mitchell D. G. 2001. "[Somatic Markers and Response Reversal: Is there Orbitofrontal Cortex Dysfunction in Boys with Psychopathic Tendencies?](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 29(6), 491-498.

LaPierre D., C. M. J. Brown, Hodgins S. 1995. "[Ventral Frontal Deficits in Psychopathy: Neuropsychological Test Findings.](#)" *Neuropsychologia* 33, 139-151.

Mitchell, D. G. V., E. Colledge, A. Leonard, R. J. R. Blair. 2002. "[Risky Decisions and Response Reversal: is There Evidence of Orbitofrontal Cortex Dysfunction in Psychopathic Individuals?](#)" *Neuropsychologia* 40, 2013-2022.

Newman, J. and D. Kosson. 1996. "[Passive Avoidance Learning in Psychopathic and Non-Psychopathic Offenders.](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 95 (3): 252-256.

Individuals with psychopathy commit more *passive avoidance* errors than comparison individuals. See for similar results Newman et al. 1997, Newman et al. 1985, Thornquist and Zuckerman, 1995.

Newman, J. P., W. A. Schmitt, and W. D. Voss. 1997. "[The Impact of Motivationally Neutral Cues on Psychopathic Individuals Assessing the Generality of the Response Modulation Hypothesis.](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 106: 563-575.

Newman, J. P., C. S. Widom, and S. Nathan. 1985. "Passive Avoidance in Syndromes of Disinhibition Psychopathy and Extraversion." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 48: 1316-1327.

Newman, J. P., C. M. Patterson, D. S. Kosson. 1987. "Response Perseveration in Psychopaths." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 96, 145-148.

Shows that psychopaths have difficulties with a *response extinction* task. In the task subjects have to play a card. While initially playing a card is rewarded with money, as the game progresses the probability of reward decreases. Psychopaths persevere in playing the cards even when this is associated with punishment.

Roussy, S., J. Toupin. 2000. "[Behavioral Inhibition Deficits in Juvenile Psychopaths.](#)" *Aggressive Behavior* 26, 413-424.

Thornquist, M. H. and M. Zuckerman. 1995. "[Psychopathy, Passive-avoidance Learning and Basic Dimensions of Personality.](#)" *Personality and Individual Differences* 19, 4: 525-534.

3.3 Empathy

R. J. R. Blair, E. Colledge, L. Murray, D. G. V. Mitchell 2001. "[A Selective Impairment in the Processing of Sad and Fearful Expressions in Children with Psychopathic Tendencies.](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology* 29 (6), pp. 491–498.

Children with psychopathic tendencies showed emotion recognition impairment relative to the comparison group.

Aniskiewicz, A. S. 1979. "[Autonomic Components of Vicarious Conditioning and Psychopathy.](#)" *Journal of Clinical Psychology* 35: 60-67.

Blair, R. J. R. 1999b. "[Responsiveness to Distress Cues in the Child with Psychopathic Tendencies.](#)" *Personality and Individual Differences*, 27, 135-145.

Electrodermal measurement shows that children with psychopathic tendencies ([APSD](#) diagnosis) manifest reduced autonomic responses to images representing distressed individuals.

Blair, R. J. R., L. Jones, F. Clark, M. Smith. 1997. "The Psychopathic Individual: a Lack of Responsiveness to Distress Cues?" *Psychophysiology*, 34, 192-198.

Blair, R. J. R., L. Cipolotti. 2000. "[Impaired Social Response Reversal: A Case of 'Acquired Sociopathy'.](#)" *Brain*, 123, 1122-1141.

Calder, A. J., A. V. Young, D. Rowland, D. I. Perrett. 1996. "[Facial Emotion Recognition after Bilateral Amygdala Damage: Differentially Severe Impairment of Fear.](#)" *Cognitive Neuropsychology*, 13, 699-745.

House, T. H., W. L. Milligan 1976. "[Autonomic Responses to Modelled Distress in Prison Psychopaths.](#)" *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 34, 556-560.

3.4 Moral Reasoning

Blair, R. J. R. 1995. "[A Cognitive Developmental Approach to Morality: Investigating the Psychopath.](#)" *Cognition*, 57, 1-29.

Blair, R. J. R. 1997. "[Moral Reasoning in the Child with Psychopathic Tendencies.](#)" *Personality and Individual Differences*, 22, 731-739.

Campagna, A. F., S. Harter 1975. "[Moral Judgements in Sociopathic and Normal Children.](#)" *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 31, 199-205.

This study uses [Kohlberg's paradigm](#). It reports that individuals with psychopathy show lower levels of moral reasoning than non-psychopathic offenders. For similar claims, see: [Fodor 1973](#), [Jurkovic and Prentice 1977](#). For contrasting results, see [Lee and Prentice 1988](#), [Trevethan and Walker 1989](#). Moreover, the pertinence of Kohlberg's paradigm [has been challenged](#).

Fodor, E. M. 1973. "Moral Development and Parent Behaviour Antecedents in Adolescent Psychopaths." *Journal of Genetic Psychology*, 122, 37-43.

Jurkovic, G. J., P. M. Prentice. 1977. "Relation of Moral and Cognitive Development to Dimensions of Juvenile Delinquency." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 86, 414-420.

Lee, M., N. M. Prentice. 1988. "Interrelations of Empathy, Cognition, and Moral Reasoning with Dimensions of Juvenile Delinquency." *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 16, 127-139.

This study uses [Kohlberg's paradigm](#). It reports that while the moral reasoning of psychopathic and non-psychopathic offenders are lower than non-criminal individuals, there is no difference between psychopathic and non-psychopathic offenders. See also, [Trevethan and Walker 1989](#). This contrasts with

the results in [Campagna and Harter 1975](#).

Trevethan, S., L. J. Walker. 1989. "Hypothetical Versus Real-Life Moral Reasoning Among Psychopathic and Delinquent Youth." *Development and Psychopathology*, 1, 91-103.

3.5 Attention

Hiatt, K. D., W. A. Schmitt, J. P. Newman. 2004. "[Stroop Tasks Reveal Abnormal Selective Attention Among Psychopathic Offenders](#)." *Neuropsychology* 18(1): 50-59.

Howland, E. W., D. S. Kosson, C. M. Patterson, J. P. Newman. 1993. "[Altering a Dominant Response: Performance of Psychopaths and Low-Socialization College Students on a Cued Reaction Time Task](#)." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 102(3), 379-387.

Study of the attentional performance of psychopaths and non-psychopaths on a exogenously-cued Posner task.

Jutai, J. W., R. D. Hare. 1983. "Psychopathy and Selective Attention During Performance of a Complex Perceptual-Motor Task." *Psychophysiology* 20: 146-151

When psychopaths focus their attention on a certain task, they show reduced physiological (autonomic and electrocortical) responsivity to irrelevant auditory stimuli, while they respond normally during passive listening.

Jutai, J. W., R. D. Hare, J. F. Connolly. 1987. "[Psychopathy and Event Related Brain Potentials \(ERPs\) Associated with Attention to Speech Stimuli](#)." *Personality and Individual Differences* 8, 175-184.

Kiehl, K. A., R. D. Hare, P. F. Liddle, J. J. McDonald. 1999 "[Reduced P300 Responses in Criminal Psychopaths During a Visual Oddball Task](#)." *Biological Psychiatry* 45(11): 1498-1507.

Kosson, D. S. 1996. "[Psychopathy and Dual-Task Performance under Focusing Conditions](#)." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 105(3): 391-400.

Kosson, D. S. 1998. "[Divided Visual Attention in Psychopathic and Nonpsychopathic Offenders](#)." *Personality and Individual Differences* 24: 373-391.

Kosson, D. S., J. P. Newman 1986. "[Psychopathy and the Allocation of Attentional Capacity in a Divided-Attention Situation](#)." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 95: 257-263.

Newmann, J. P., W. A. Schmitt, W. D. Voss. 1997. "[The Impact of Motivationally Neutral Cues on Psychopathic Individuals: Assessing the Generality of the Response Modulation Hypothesis](#)." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 106: 563-575.

Raine A., P. H. Venables. 1988. "[Enhanced P3 Evoked Potentials and Longer Recovery Times in Psychopaths](#)." *Psychophysiology* 25: 30-38.

4 Information Processing Models

4.1 Response Modulation Hypothesis

Gorestein, E. E., J. P. Newman. 1980. "[Disinhibitory Psychopathology: A New Perspective and a Model for Research](#)." *Psychological Review* 87: 301-315.

Newman, J. P. 1998. "Psychopathic Behaviour: an Information Processing Perspective". In D. J.

Cooke, A. E. Forth, R. D. Hare (eds.). *Psychopathy: Theory, Research and Implications for Society*. Dordrecht: Kluwer, pp. 81-104.

Newmann, J. P., W. A. Schmitt, W. D. Voss. 1997. "[The Impact of Motivationally Neutral Cues on Psychopathic Individuals: Assessing the Generality of the Response Modulation Hypothesis.](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 106: 563-575

Patterson, C. M., J. P. Newman. 1993. "[Reflectivity and Learning from Aversive Events: Toward a Psychological Mechanism for the Syndromes of Disinhibition.](#)" *Psychological Review* 100: 716-736.

4.2 Dysfunctional Fear Hypothesis

Blackburn, R. 1988. "On moral judgements and personality disorders: the myth of psychopathic personality revisited". *British Journal of Psychiatry* 153: 505–512.

Blair, K. S., Leonard, A., Morton, J., & Blair, R. J. R. (2006a). Impaired decision making on the basis of both reward and punishment information in individuals with psychopathy. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 41, 155–165.

Cleckley, H. M. 1941. *The Mask of Sanity: An Attempt to Clarify Some Issues about the So-called Psychopathic Personality*. 5th edition, St. Louis (Mo) Mosby.

Eysenck, H. J. 1964. *Crime and Personality*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Fowles, D. C. 1988. "Psychophysiology and Psychopathy: a Motivational Approach." *Psychophysiology* 25: 373-391.

Gray, J. A. 1987. *The Psychology of Fear and Stress*. 2nd edn. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Lykken, D. T. 1995. *The Antisocial Personalities*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Mealey, L. 1995. "The Sociobiology of Sociopathy: an Integrated Evolutionary Model." *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 18, 523-599.

Patrick, C. J. 1994. "Emotion and Psychopathy Startling New Insights." *Psychophysiology* 31: 319-330.

Pichot, P. 1978. "Psychopathic Behavior: a Historical Review." in R. D. Hare, D. S. Schalling (eds.). *Psychopathic Behavior: Approaches to Research*. Chichester: John Wiley and Sons.

Trasler, G. B. 1973. "Criminal Behaviour." In H. J. Eysenck (ed.). *Handbook of Abnormal Psychology*. London: Pitman.

Tralser, G. B. "Relations between Psychopathy and Persistent Criminality - Methodological and Theoretical Issues." in R. D. Hare, D. S. Schalling (eds.). *Psychopathic Behavior: Approaches to Research*. Chichester: John Wiley and Sons.

4.3 Violence Inhibition Mechanism Model

Blair, R. J. R. 1995. "[A Cognitive Developmental Approach to Morality: Investigating the Psychopath.](#)" *Cognition* 57, 1-29.

Blair, R. J. R., L. Jones, F. Clark, M. Smith. 1997. "The Psychopathic Individual: a Lack of Responsiveness to Distress Cues?" *Psychophysiology* 34, 192-198.

Blair, J., Mitchell, D. and Blair, K. 2005. *The Psychopath: Emotion and the Brain*. Oxford:

Blackwell.

5 Neurological Explanations

5.1 The Left Hemisphere Activation Hypothesis

Kosson, D. S. 1998. "Divided Visual Attention in Psychopathic and Nonpsychopathic Offenders." *Personality and Individual Differences* 24: 373-391.

Argues that information processing in psychopaths is disrupted when the left hemisphere is activated by processing demands.

5.2 The Frontal Lobe Dysfunction Hypothesis

Moffitt, T. E. 1993. "The Neuropsychology of Conduct Disorder." *Development and Psychopathology* 5: 135-152.

Raine, A. 1993. "Annotation: the Role of Prefrontal Deficits, Low Autonomic Arousal, and Early Health Factors in the Development of Antisocial and Aggressive Behaviour in Children." *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* 43, 417-434.

5.3 The Somatic Marker Hypothesis

Bechara, A., A. R. Damasio, H. Damasio, S. W. Anderson 2000. "[Emotion, Decision Making and the Orbitofrontal Cortex](#)." *Cerebral Cortex*, 10, 295-307.

This paper reviews some neuropsychological studies, concerning patients with ventromedial prefrontal cortex (VM) damage, that support the *somatic marker hypothesis*. The central idea of this hypothesis is that certain marker signals, which arise in bioregulation, including those expressed in emotions, influence decision making processes. The authors advance the hypothesis that psychopathic behaviour might also result from abnormal operation of the neural system involving the VM that determine a reduced generation of somatic markers. For a more extensive and semi-popular presentation of the somatic marker hypothesis see [Damasio 1994](#).

Blair, R. J. R. 1999b. "[Responsiveness to Distress Cues in the Child with Psychopathic Tendencies](#)." *Personality and Individual Differences*, 27, 135-145.

Against the prediction of some upholders of [somatic marker hypothesis](#) applied to psychopathy, children with psychopathy appear to present somatic marker responses to certain visual stimuli of social situations.

Blair, R.J.R., L. Cipolotti 2000. "[Impaired social response reversal: A case of 'acquired sociopathy'](#)." *Brain*, 123 (2000), pp. 1122-1141.

Damasio, A. R. 1994 [Descartes' Error: Emotion, Rationality and the Human Brain](#) (information). New York: Putnam.

Dolan, R. 2000. "[On the Neurology of Morals](#)." *Nature Neuroscience*, 2, 927-929.

Lösel, F., M. Schmucker, 2004. "[Psychopathy, Risk Taking, and Attention: A Differential Test of the Somatic Marker Hypothesis](#)." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 4, 522-529.

Schmitt W. A., C. A. Brinkley, J. P. Newman, 1999. "[Testing Damasio's Somatic Marker Hypothesis with Psychopathic Individuals: Risk Takers or Risk Averse?](#)" *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 108, 538-543.

5.4 The Amygdala Dysfunction Hypothesis

- Blair, R. J. R. 2001. "[Neuro-cognitive Models of Aggression, the Antisocial Personality Disorder and Psychopathy.](#)" *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry* 71, 727-731.
- Blair, R. J. R. 2002. "A Neuro-Cognitive Model of the Psychopathic Individual." In M. A. Ron, T. W. Robbins (eds.). *Disorders of Brain and Mind*. Vol. 2. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Blair, R. J. R., J. S. Morris, C. D. Frith, D. I. Perrett, R. Dolan 1999. "[Dissociable Neural Responses to Facial Expressions of Sadness and Anger.](#)" *Brain*, 122, 883-893.
- Blair, J., Mitchell, D. and Blair, K. 2005. [The Psychopath: Emotion and the Brain](#) (information). Oxford: Blackwell.
- Patrick, C. J. 1994. "Emotion and Psychopathy Startling New Insights." *Psychophysiology* 31: 319-330.

6 Treatment

6.1 General

Cleckley, H. M. 1941. [The Mask of Sanity: An Attempt to Clarify Some Issues about the So-called Psychopathic Personality.](#) 5th edition, St. Louis (Mo) Mosby.

Cleckley maintains that psychopaths neither benefit from treatment nor can form the emotional bonds required for therapy.

Harris, G. T., E. M. Rice. "Treatment of Psychopathy: A Review of Empirical Findings." in [Patrick ed. 2005](#), pp. 555-572.

A critical review of recent empirical studies.

McCord, J. 1982. "Parental Behavior in the Cycle of Aggression." *Psychiatry* 51, 14-23.

Maintains that there is no evidence for efficacious treatment of adult psychopaths..

Hare, R. D. 1970. *Psychopathy: Theory and Research*. New York: Guildford Press.

Concluded that, at the time, there was no evidence for efficacious treatment of adult psychopaths.

Salekin, R. T. 2002. "[Psychopathy and Therapeutic Pessimism Clinical Lore or Clinical Reality?](#)" *Clinical Psychology Review* 22, 79-112.

A meta-analysis study of 42 studies, it states that there is evidence that psychopaths respond to treatment. The methodology and reliability of the study are criticised in [Harris and Rice 2005](#), pp. 557-561.

Skeem, J. L., J. Monahan, E. P. Mulvey 2002. "[Psychopathy, Treatment, and Subsequent Violence Among Civil Psychiatric Patients.](#)" *Law and Human Behavior* 26, 577-603.

The authors conclude that there is evidence that psychopaths respond to treatment. This study uses data from the MacArthur Risk Assessment Study (<http://macarthur.virginia.edu>). Nonforensic potentially psychopathic patients (scored on the PCL-SV) who participated in more than 6 sessions of therapy exhibited less violent behaviour (in the 10 post discharge weeks) than those who attended fewer sessions. For criticisms, see [Harris and Rice 2005](#), pp. 561-562.

6.2 Therapeutic Communities

Hobson, J., J. Shine, R. Roberts. 2000. "How do Psychopaths Behave in a Prison Therapeutic Community?" *Psychology, Crime and Law* 6, 139-154.

Study of a therapeutic community at Grendon prison in England. Higher [PCL-R](#) scores associated with poor adjustment to the program.

Ogloff, J., S. Wong, A. Greenwood. 1990. "Treating Criminal Psychopaths in a Therapeutic Community Program." *Behavioral Sciences and the Law* 8, 81-90.

Evaluation of a therapeutic community program. Psychopaths (scored on [PCL](#)), compared to non-psychopaths, showed less motivation and improvement and were discharged earlier.

Rice, M. E., G. T. Harris, C. Cormier. 1992. "A Follow-up of Rapists Assessed in a Maximum Security Psychiatric Facility." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 5, 435-448.

Evaluation of a therapeutic community program operated over a decade at the forensic hospital in Penetanguishene, Ontario. The results showed that psychopaths (scored on [PCL-R](#)), compared to non-program, manifested higher violent recidivism. Non-psychopaths who took part in the program also had a lower rate of violent recidivism. For similar results, see [Ogloff et al. 1990](#), [Hobson et al. 2000](#).

6.3 Cognitive Behavioural Therapies

Hare, R. D., D. Clark, M. Grann, D. Thornton. 2000. "Psychopathy and the Predictive Validity of the PCL-R: An International Perspective." *Behavioural Sciences and the Law* 18, 623-645.

A study based on a short-term anger management and social skills training program. While the program had no demonstrable effects on non-psychopaths, offenders with high score in PCL-R had higher rates of recidivism than untreated offenders with similar scoring.

Hughes, G., T. Hogue, C. Hollin, H. Champion 1997. "First-stage Evaluation of a Treatment Programme for Personality Disordered Offenders." *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry* 8, 515-527.

PCL-R score is inversely correlated with therapeutic improvement in a program for mentally disordered offenders.

Seto, M. C., H. Barbaree. 1999. "Psychopathy, Treatment, Behaviour, and Sex Offender Recidivism." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 14, 1235-1248.

Study of a treatment based on the principles of [good correctional treatment](#). Offender with high psychopathy scores were more likely to reoffend than other participants.

Wong, S., R. D. Hare 2005. *Guidelines for a Psychopathy Treatment Program*. Toronto, ON, Canada: Multi-Health Systems.

The authors suggest that a cognitive behavioural programs targeting personal characteristics that are correlated with recidivism might be effective.

Part 2: Philosophy

1 Moral Philosophy

1.1 Criminal Responsibility/Punishment

Adshead, G. 2003. "[Measuring Moral Identities: Psychopaths and Responsibility.](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 10, 2: 185-187.

Benn, P. 2003. "[The Responsibility of the Psychopathic Offender: Commentary on Ciocchetti.](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 10, 2: 189-192.

Ciocchetti, C. 2003. "[The Responsibility of the Psychopathic Offender.](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 10, 2: 175-183.

Ciocchetti, C. 2003. "[Some Thoughts on Diverse Psychopathic Offenders and Legal Responsibility.](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 10, 2: 195-198.

Fine, C., J. Kennett 2004. "[Mental Impairment, Moral Understanding and Criminal Responsibility: Psychopathy and the Purposes of Punishment.](#)" *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* 27, 5: 425-443.

This paper is empirically well informed and contains forceful arguments. Psychopaths (PCL-classification) are not criminally responsible. In fact, their capacity to draw the moral/conventional distinction is impaired (see section 3.4) and, thus, they do not meet the requirement of moral understanding advanced in the criminal code (for instance, in Australia, USA and UK). Moreover, neither retributive nor utilitarian conceptions of punishment imply that psychopathic offenders should be punished. However, assuming that self-defence provides reasons for punishment and given the data suggesting the PCL-classification as a good predictor of criminal recidivism (see section 2.3), we are justified in detaining psychopaths.

Hare, R. D. 1988. "Psychopaths and their Nature." in T. Millon, E. Simonsen, M. Birket-Smith, & R. D. Davis (Eds.) *Psychopathy: Antisocial, Criminal and Violent Behaviour*. New York: The Guildford Press, pp. 188-212.

Agreeing with the practice in many jurisdictions, Hare maintains that psychopathy should be considered an aggravating factor for criminal responsibility.

Shuman, D. W. "[A Comment on Christopher Ciocchetti 'The Responsibility of the Psychopathic Offender'](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 10, 2: 193-194.

Slovenko, R. 1999. "[Commentary Responsibility of the Psychopath.](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 6, 1: 53-55.

Reznek, L. 1997. *Evil or Ill? Justifying the Insanity Defence* (information). London: Routledge.

Psychopathy should not excuse criminal behaviour. In fact, classifying psychopathy as a disease would have unacceptable social and political costs (pp. 237-245). Moreover, courts should consider psychopathy as proving the lack of any redeeming characteristics.

1.2 Ethical Implications

Kennett, J. 2002. "[Autism, Empathy, and Moral Agency.](#)" *The Philosophical Quarterly* 52: 340-357.

A defence, against the Humean stress on the role of empathy in moral agency, of the Kantian emphasis on

the role of rationality. The moral shortcomings of psychopaths cannot be determined by their lack of empathy. High-functioning autistic adults with Asperger's syndrome manifest a similar deficit in empathic understanding. However, they can realise, by reasoning, that other people have reason-giving interests as their own. The moral indifference of psychopaths appears to derive from their incapacity to understand reasons available to them. Kennett, J. 2006. "[Do psychopaths really threaten moral rationalism?](#)" *Philosophical Explorations*, 9, 1: 69-82.

Kennett, J. 2006. "[Do psychopaths really threaten moral rationalism?](#)" *Philosophical Explorations*, 9, 1: 69-82.

Criticises [Nichols 2002](#). Nichols's experiment about ordinary intuitions concerning the moral understanding of psychopaths fails to address the main tenets of rationalism. Moreover, psychopaths do not constitute a counterexample to rationalism understood as an empirical claim about moral psychology. Psychopaths present impaired practical rationality. These defects in their rationality affect their capacity for self-regulation. Developmental studies show that self-regulation is a requirement for moral understanding and motivation.

Maibom, H. L. 2005. "[Moral Unreason: The Case of Psychopathy.](#)" *Mind and Language* 20, 2: 237-257.

Maibom maintains, against [Nichols 2002](#), that rationalists can explain the moral defects of psychopaths. An agent who is capable of moral judgement should satisfy certain requirement of practical rationality (such as forming consistent intentions and willing the means to reach her ends). Recent psychological evidence shows that psychopaths do not satisfy these requirements.

Nichols, S. 2002a: "[How Psychopaths Threaten Moral Rationalism, or is it Irrational to be Amoral?](#)" *The Monist*, 85, 285–303.

Nichols argues that psychopaths undermine rationalist accounts of morality. Psychopaths, being rational individuals that fail to be motivated by moral reasons, offer a counterexample to those that assume that moral rationalism is a conceptual truth. Moreover, moral rationalism, understood as an empirical account of moral psychology, fails to explain the psychology of psychopaths. Finally, he argues that an account of morality based on moral sentiments explains the case of psychopaths. For criticisms, see [Maibom 2005](#), [Kennett 2006](#).

1.3 Moral Responsibility

Adshead, G. 1996. "[Commentary on "Psychopathy, Other-Regarding Moral Beliefs, and Responsibility."](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 3, 4: 279-281.

Adshead, G. 1999. "[Psychopaths and Other-Regarding Beliefs.](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 6, 1: 41-44.

Arrington, R. 1979. "Practical Reason, Responsibility and the Psychopath." *Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior* 9:71-80.

Benn, P. 1999. "[Freedom, Resentment and the Psychopath.](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 6, 1: 29-39.

Benn, P. 1999. "[Response to the Commentaries.](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 6, 1: 57-58.

Deigh, J. 1995. "[Empathy and Universability.](#)" *Ethics* 105, 4 743-763.

Duff, R. A. 1977. "Psychopathy and Moral Understanding." *American Philosophical Quarterly* 14: 189-200.

Psychopathic offenders are not morally responsible for their crimes. According to Duff, if an agent is mentally disordered then he is not responsible. Moreover, an agent is mentally disordered when fails to satisfy the following requirements for possessing practical rationality: (i) knowledge of his action (ii)

capacity to do what he wants. Duff, against the “empiricist account” of practical rationality, argues for a further criterion: (iii) understanding of values, interests and concerns that inform people’s lives. Psychopaths satisfy (i) and (ii). However, in psychopaths’ life there is no “intelligible dimension of value, emotion or rational concern”, and this logically implies that they lack (iii).

Duff, R. A. 1996. "[Commentary on "Psychopathy, Other-Regarding Moral Beliefs, and Responsibility"](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 3,4: 283-286.

Elliott, C. 1992. "Diagnosing Blame: Responsibility and the Psychopath." *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 17: 199-214.

Elliott, C. 1994. "Puppetmasters and Personality Disorders Wittgenstein, Mechanism, and Moral Responsibility." *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology* 1, 2: 91-99.

Elliott, C. 1996. *The Rules of Insanity Moral Responsibility and Mental Illness*. New York: State University of New York Press.

(Chapter 5) Psychopaths (as characterised by [Cleckley](#) and DSM-IV ([ASPD](#))) lack "deep engagement with morality". They do not understand why morality is important and they do not care about it. The psychopaths do not “seem to be able to see why the interests of others matter”. However, they understand that others value certain ways of behaving. Moreover, this understanding warrants holding them morally responsible for certain actions that do not involve "the subtleties of moral reasoning or emotional commitments". For a criticism, see [Haji 1998](#), pp. 120-126.

Elliott, C. and G. Gillett. 1992. "Moral Insanity and Practical Reason." *Philosophical Psychology* 5: 53-67.

Fields, L. 1996. "[Psychopathy, Other-Regarding Moral Beliefs, and Responsibility](#)." *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 3, 4: 261-277.

Fields, L. 1996. "[Response to the Commentaries](#)." *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 3, 4: 291-292.

Fischer, J. M. and M. S. J. Ravizza. 1998. [Responsibility and Control. A Theory of Moral Responsibility](#) (information). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

This book offers an account of moral responsibility. An agent is morally responsible for a certain action (omission) *A*, when (1) he knows about the circumstances in which he performs and (2) he has control over action *A*. While condition (1) is not explored, the authors argue that (2) is satisfied when the action *A* is performed by an agent who is (2.1) *regularly receptive* to reasons and (2.2) acts from a mechanism that belongs to the agent and that is (2.3) *reactive* to reasons. (2.1) requires that the agent knows that there are certain reasons and moral reason to perform (or not to perform) *A*. (2.3) means that the mechanism that actually issues in action *A* would not issue in that action if there were a reason (not necessarily a moral one) to do otherwise. The theory suggests that thinking about the responsibility of the psychopath should be structured by two hypotheses that need to be investigated in the light of empirical evidence (pp. 79-89). If a psychopath is not regularly receptive to moral reasons, he cannot be morally responsible. On the other hand, if he is receptive to moral reasons, but fails to be reactive to moral reasons, then provided he is reactive to other reasons, he can be held morally responsible. This suggestion is adopted in [Glannon 1997](#).

Gillett, G. 1999. "[Benn-Ding the Rules of Resentment](#)" *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 6, 1: 49-51.

Glannon, W. 1997. "[Psychopathy and Responsibility](#)." *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 14: 263-275.

The psychopath lacks the capacity to internalise social norms of behaviour and to identify with them as his own. This lack of "deep moral knowledge" does not derive from an impairment in practical reason as some rationalists (Kantians) have maintained ([Deigh 1995](#), [Murphy 1972](#)). Instead, this failure derives from the emotional deficits of psychopaths (for a similar conclusion, see [Nichols 2002](#); for possible objections, see [Maibom 2005](#) and [Kennett 2002](#)). However, they have sufficient moral understanding to be partly responsible for their behaviour (for a similar conclusion, see [Elliott 1996](#)).

Greenspan, P. S. 2003. "[Responsible Psychopaths](#)." *Philosophical Psychology* 16, 3: 417-419.

Psychopaths' limitations in feeling moral emotions, such as guilt based on empathy with their victims, undermine their capacity of self-control and thus their free will. However, when psychopaths intend to harm, the manifested bad qualities of their will, should warrant in us reactive attitudes such as hatred, scorn and contempt. Elaborating a [Strawsonian account of moral responsibility](#), Greenspan thus concludes that psychopaths have a degree of moral responsibility.

Haksar, V. 1965. "[The Responsibility of Psychopaths](#)." *Philosophical Quarterly* 15: 135-45.

Relying upon Ckeckley's work, the author objects to [Wootton's circularity argument](#). Moreover, he replies to the three following arguments against the ascription of moral responsibility to psychopaths. Psychopaths are not morally responsible because: (i) their anti-social acts undermine their values and aims (liberty, jobs) (ii) their behaviour is not purposive (iii) they lack control over their immediate desires. Against (i): there is no evidence that proves that psychopaths value liberty, jobs etc. above performing their anti-social acts. Against (ii): psychopaths can execute plans to accomplish their criminal acts. Against (iii): in many occasions they can restrain their desires; there are no reasons to assume that they have less-powers of resisting their desires than other criminals.

Haksar, V. 1967. "Aristotle and the Punishment of Psychopaths." *Philosophy* 39: 323-40.

Harold, J. and C. Elliott, 1999. "[Travelers, Mercenaries, and Psychopaths](#)." *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 6, 1: 45-48.

Haji, I., 1998. "[On Psychopaths and Culpability](#)." *Law and Philosophy* 17: 117–140.

Haji, I. 2003. "[The Emotional Depravity of Psychopaths and Culpability](#)." *Legal Theory*, 9: 63-82.

Investigates the moral culpability of psychopaths who possess a certain degree of moral understanding (for this possibility see [Fisher and Ravizza 1998](#)). Argues that the emotional impairments of these psychopaths do not affect their *volitional control*, thus, it does not undermine their culpability. However, drawing a comparison with cases of compulsion, the author suggests that the legal response to the psychopathic offender should be attenuated.

McMillan, J. 2003. "[Dangerousness, Mental Disorder, and Responsibility](#)." *Journal of Medical Ethics* 29: 232-235.

The debate generated by the UK Mental Health Bill, which recommend preventive civil commitment for criminals with "Violent Antisocial Personality Disorder", has focused on the tension between personal rights and protection of the public. However, the moral responsibility of these individuals and their capacity to act on a medical decision should be also considered.

Murphy, J. G. 1972. "[Moral Death: A Kantian Essay on Psychopathy](#)." *Ethics* 82, 4: 284-298.

Assumes that psychopaths fail to be motivated by the recognition of rights of others. Such a motivation is required for having rights (reciprocity). Therefore, psychopaths cannot have rights and we have no obligations to them. Moreover, we should not hold them morally responsible. Thus, they should be treated as non human animals. However, the adoption of this practical conclusion should be constrained by the following considerations. First, there might be serious difficulties in the clinical diagnosis of psychopathy. Second, there are dangers deriving from political abuse. Third, psychopathy might be the result of collective choices. Fourth, psychopaths might be potential or former persons. For a criticism, see [Glannon 1997](#).

Radden, J. 1996. "[Commentary on "Psychopathy, Other-Regarding Moral Beliefs, and Responsibility"](#)." *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology*, 3, 4: 287-289.

Smith, R. J. 1984. "[The Psychopath as Moral Agent](#)." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 45: 2, 177-193.

Illustrates and criticises [Arrington 1979](#), [Duff 1977](#), [Haksar 1965](#), and [Murphy 1972](#). These accounts are based on the observation that psychopaths fail to conform to certain *idealized* values (having empathy, following a life plan, being concerned for other people's interests and rights). However, these authors do

not recognise that psychopaths share values that prevail in many modern societies (manipulation of others, little affect in interpersonal relations, lack of idealized values).

Glossary

Kohlberg's paradigm

A paradigm used to assess moral reasoning (Kohlberg 1969). The participant is first presented with vignettes where a protagonist faces moral dilemmas and then is asked how the protagonist should act and why. The subject's level of moral reasoning is a function of the complexity of the reasons he/she gives for what the protagonist should or should not do. It has been argued that Kohlberg's assessment of moral judgement measures the complexity of semantic memory, and thus it is more a measure of IQ and socio-economic status, than moral reasoning ([Blair et al. 2005](#), p. 57, Shweder et al. 1987).

Kohlberg, L. 1969. "Stage and Sequence: the Cognitive-Developmental Approach to Socialization." In D. A. Goslin (ed.), *Handbook of Socialization Theory and Research*. Chicago, IL: Rand McNally.

Shweder R. A., M. Mahapatra, J. G. Miller. 1987. "Culture and Moral Development" in J. Kagan, S. Lamb (eds.) *The Emergence of Morality in Young Children*, Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, pp. 1-83.

Passive avoidance learning

A type of instrumental learning that involves learning: (i) to respond to stimuli that give rise to reward (ii) to avoid responding to those stimuli that give rise to punishment. This type of learning requires the formation of a stimulus-reinforcement association, (the association of a stimulus with either reward or punishment).

Response extinction

Type of task involving learning to withhold responses to a stimulus previously rewarded but then associated with a punishment.

Strawson's account of moral responsibility

Turiel's paradigm

Turiel's paradigm is based on the moral/conventional distinction task (Turiel 1983, Nucci and Nucci 1982, Smetana 1993). The participant is presented with vignettes involving moral and conventional transgressions. An action is a moral transgression when it has consequence for the rights and welfare of other individuals such as hurting another individual, damaging his/her property. Conventional transgressions are defined by their consequences for the social order; these are actions such as talking in class, dressing in opposite-sex clothes. The participant has to make judgements about the transgressions.

Nucci, L. P., M. Nucci. 1982. "Children's Social Interactions in the Context of Moral and Conventional Transgressions." *Child Development*, 52, 114-121.

Smetana, J. G. 1993. "Understanding of Social Rules." In M. Bennett (ed.), *The Child as Psychologist: An Introduction to the Development of Social Cognition*. New York: Harvester Wheatsheaf, pp. 111-141.

Turiel, E. 1983. *The Development of Social Knowledge: Morality and Convention*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Startle reflex

Automatic jump reaction showed by a subject suddenly exposed to a basic threatening stimulus (loud noise, looming object). The magnitude of the reflex can be reduced or augmented by preceding the threatening stimulus respectively with positive (e. g. erotic images) or negative (e.g assault scenes) primes.