



ELSEVIER

Behaviour Research and Therapy 42 (2004) 697–710

**BEHAVIOUR
RESEARCH AND
THERAPY**

www.elsevier.com/locate/brat

Psychopathy is related to negative affectivity but not to anxiety sensitivity

Lisa R. Hale, Diane S. Goldstein, Carolyn S. Abramowitz, John E. Calamari,
David S. Kosson *

Department of Psychology, Finch University of Health Sciences/The Chicago Medical School, 3333 Green Bay Road, North Chicago 60064, IL, USA

Received 22 October 2002; received in revised form ; accepted 30 June 2003

Abstract

Although the hypothesis that psychopathic individuals are characterized by a reduced capacity for experiencing anxiety is central to many theories of psychopathy, most prior studies have examined anxiety and fear measures generally considered outdated in the literature. Moreover, prior findings are mixed, with several studies reporting no relationships between psychopathy and anxiety, and others suggesting negative relationships for the affective, interpersonal aspects of the disorder and positive relationships for the antisocial behavior dimension. To examine whether psychopathy dimensions are associated with contemporary measures of anxiety, the Anxiety Sensitivity Index and State Trait Anxiety Inventory-Trait scale were administered to 157 male inmates. Participants also completed the MMPI-derived Welsh Anxiety Scale (WAS), commonly used in psychopathy studies. Analyses provide no evidence for a negative relationship between psychopathy's affective, interpersonal factor and anxiety sensitivity after controlling for trait anxiety. Trait anxiety and WAS scores were positively associated with the antisocial behavior dimension of psychopathy. Findings do replicate prior relationships between the WAS and psychopathy, suggesting the WAS may measure aspects of negative affectivity that differ from anxiety.

© 2003 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Psychopathy; Anxiety; Anxiety sensitivity

Psychopathy is a personality disorder associated with impulsive and often manipulative anti-social behavior. For over 50 years, conceptualizations of the disorder have been dominated by perspectives emphasizing psychopaths' attenuated capacity for emotional experience (Cleckley,

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +1-847-578-8761; fax: +1-847-578-8765.
E-mail address: kossond@finchcms.edu (D.S. Kosson).

1976). The specific hypothesis of a reduced capacity for fear and anxiety has occupied an especially central role in psychopathy research (Lykken, 1957).

However, empirical evidence for an inverse relationship between psychopathy and self-reported anxiety has been equivocal. For example, Lykken (1957) reported that his sample of primary psychopaths scored no lower than non-criminal controls on the Taylor (1953) and Welsh (1956) anxiety scales, two measures of general anxiety or neuroticism; however, on his own measure, they reported less aversion to frightening/dangerous activities than non-criminals. Other researchers have reported no differences between groups on Lykken's measure (Hare, 1972; Schmauk, 1970; Widom, 1976). Some other early studies indicated no significant differences for other measures of neuroticism (Hare, 1982) and anxiety (Siegel, 1978), but most provided little information about psychopaths' scores on self-report anxiety scales, and these studies are often criticized for relying on unreliable or poorly validated measures of psychopathy (Hare & Cox, 1978).

Over the past two decades the measurement of psychopathy has become more refined and researchers have increasingly relied on a single instrument for assessing psychopathy, the Psychopathy Checklist (PCL; Hare, 1980), in its original or revised form (PCL-R; Hare, 1991; see Lilienfeld, 1994, for a review). This rating scale, based largely on clinical descriptions of the psychopath (e.g. Cleckley, 1976), addresses both the personality and behavioral manifestations of psychopathy, but does not directly assess for levels of anxiety or fear. Factor analyses have reliably identified two underlying, yet correlated, dimensions of the PCL-R (Harpur, Hakstian, & Hare, 1988; Harpur, Hare, & Hakstian, 1989); Factor 1 represents a constellation of affective and interpersonal traits that describe a selfish, callous, remorseless use of others. Factor 2 consists of more behavioral manifestations of psychopathy, such as impulsivity, irresponsibility, juvenile delinquency, and proneness to boredom. Factor 2 is related to the diagnosis of antisocial personality disorder (ASPD), chronic criminality, and substance abuse and appears to reflect the influence of an antisocial /criminal lifestyle (Harpur, Hare & Hakstian, 1989).

As the measurement of psychopathy has improved, many of the relationships between psychopathy and emotional processing deficits have been widely replicated (Patrick, 1994; Hare, 1998). However, the nature of the relationship between psychopathy and anxious or fearful affect has remained obscure. Recent studies continue to reveal no significant relationships between overall PCL-R psychopathy and a variety of scales validated as measures of anxiety, neuroticism, or fear (Patrick, 1994; Schmitt & Newman, 1999).

Patrick (1994) reported that self-report measures of emotional distress and fear were negatively related to PCL-R Factor 1 scores after controlling for PCL-R Factor 2 and positively related to Factor 2 after controlling for Factor 1. Because the two factors correlate 0.5 to 0.6, he suggested partial correlations with the PCL-R factor scores provide a more powerful way to see the unique relationship between low fear capacity and the affective and interpersonal features of psychopathy (see also Frick, 1998). In contrast, controlling for Factor 2 did not affect correlations between fear or anxiety and PCL-R total scores in Schmitt and Newman (1999).¹

¹ Frick, Lilienfeld, Ellis, Loney, and Silverthorn (1999) also reported significant negative semi-partial correlations between clinical measures of anxiety and callous, unemotional personality traits as measured by the Psychopathy Screening Device, an instrument that uses parent and teacher ratings to assess psychopathic traits in children.

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

ISIArticles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات