Moral cognitions and psychopathy

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Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Recruitment stopped
Health condition type	Other condition
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON30786

Source
ToetsingOnline

Brief title
Moral cognitions and psychopathy

Condition

- Other condition

Synonym
psychopathy, sociopathy

Health condition

persoonlijkheidsstoornis: psychopathie

Research involving
Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Universiteit Maastricht
Source(s) of monetary or material Support: NWO;Veni

Intervention

Keyword: cognition, implicit, moral, Psychopathy

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

Subjects* permission to participate within the current study will be

administered by means of an information letter. Subjects will be asked to

complete a total of six questionnaires. Mandate by letter is required for each

subject before starting the experiment.

Secondary outcome

Demographical information will be taken into account. Mandate by letter is

required for each subject before starting the experiment.

Study description

Background summary

Earlier research indicated a deficit in emotional processing in psychopaths, expressed through impairments within physiological reactions to emotional material. No study up to date specified the various mechanisms of emotional processing within different types of psychopathic offenders (impulsive vs. instrumental psychopaths). The current study attempts to enlighten the multifarious mechanism within these different types of delinquents.

Study objective

This current research aims to comprehend the risk factors of psychopathic characteristics. Therefore, the objective of this research is exploring whether a deficit in emotional processing and more specific moral cognitions is a distinguishing factor between different types of psychopathic offenders (impulsive vs. instrumental psychopaths).

Study design

Subjects are asked to participate on three computer tasks in two sessions

within two weeks in which implicit measurements will be implemented to determine the subjects moral cognitions (realization of good vs. bad; feelings of guild and remorse). An Implicit Association Test (IAT), an Extrinsic Affective Simon Task (EAST) and an Dot Probe task will be utilized as the implicit computer task. One aspect of the study contains a manipulation by means of a prisoner*s dilemma. The IAT and Dot Probe task will be adopted in the first session, the prisoner*s dilemma and the EAST in the second session. Moreover, questionnaires (PPI, RPQ, PCL-R, SIMS, SS-R and BIS-11) will be completed between the different computer tasks and the prisoner*s dilemma. These questionnaires determine the psychopathy score (PPI, RPQ and PCL-R) and control for faking good (SS-R), faking bad (SIMS) and impulsivity (BIS-11).

Study burden and risks

No health risk is attached to participation within this research. Participants are totally free in their decision to participate within this research. Moreover, participation within the current study has no consequences what so ever on their treatment or duration of their reside within the clinic.

Contacts

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Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age
Adults (18-64 years)
Elderly (65 years and older)

Inclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria (experimental group 1; psychopathic delinquents):
o Male subject
o Situated in GGzE, long stay TBS or prison
o IQ >= 90
o psychopathic characteristics (PCL-R score >= 26) ;Inclusion criteria (experimental group 2;
non psychopathic delinquents):
o Male subject
o Situated in GGzE , long stay TBS or prison
o IQ >= 90
o no psychopathic characteristics (PCL-R <= 25) ;Inclusion criteria (normal control group):
o Male subject
o no psychic diagnosis
o Normal IQ

Exclusion criteria

Exclusion criteria (experimental group 1; psychopathic delinquents):
o Inadequate knowledge of the Dutch language to fully understand the test instructions
o Having a bad sight
o Being colour blind
o Having an IQ <= 90
o Having a psychotic / related disorder
Exclusion criteria (experimental group 2; non psychopathic delinquents):
o Inadequate knowledge of the Dutch language to fully understand the test instructions
o Having a bad sight
o Being colour blind
o Having an IQ <= 90
o Having a psychotic / related disorder
Exclusion criteria (normal control group):
o Inadequate knowledge of the Dutch language to fully understand the test instructions
o Having a psychic disorder
o Having an IQ below average
o Being colour blind

Study design

Design

Study type: Observational non invasive

Intervention model: Other

Allocation: Non-randomized controlled trial

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Active

Primary purpose: Basic science

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 07-01-2008

Enrollment: 90

Type: Actual

Medical products/devices used

Registration: No

Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date: 15-05-2007

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit
                           Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL15486.068.06