# **Emotion processing and psychopathy**

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Ethical reviewApproved WMOStatusRecruitment stoppedHealth condition typeOther condition

**Study type** Observational non invasive

## **Summary**

### ID

NL-OMON30794

#### **Source**

ToetsingOnline

#### **Brief title**

Emotion processing and psychopathy

### **Condition**

Other condition

#### **Synonym**

Psychopathy & Antisocial Personality Disorder

### **Health condition**

persoonlijkheidsstoornissen: Antisociale persoonlijkheidsstoornis en psychopathie

### Research involving

Human

### **Sponsors and support**

**Primary sponsor:** Universiteit Maastricht

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Ministerie van OC&W

### Intervention

**Keyword:** emotion processing, psychopathy, psychophysiology

### **Outcome measures**

### **Primary outcome**

Subjects\* permission to participate within the current study will be administered by means of al information letter. Subjects will be asked to complete a total of four questionnaires. Mandate by letter is requires for each subject before starting the experiment.

### **Secondary outcome**

Demographical information will be taken into account. Mandate by letter is requires 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 and persons with ASPD. 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 is a distinguishing factor between different types of psychopathic offenders and offenders with an ASPD.

### Study design

Subjects are asked to rate the content of several emotional loaded images and words (e.g. positive images of flowers and a playground; positive words as

sweet, beautiful; negative images with people fighting, negative words as angry; and neutral images of a table, or neutral words such as chair), while physiological measurements (skin conductance and hart rate) are displayed. Within a second session, emotional images and words are presented within a passive task during which skin conductance, hart rate, corrugators reflex and startle reflex will be measured. Each subject is asked to rate each stimulus on a 0-100 pleasantness scale.

### 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**

#### **Public**

Universiteit Maastricht

Universiteitssingel 50 6229 RE Maastricht Nederland **Scientific** 

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## **Trial sites**

### **Listed location countries**

**Netherlands** 

## **Eligibility criteria**

#### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

### Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

- o person is male
- o person resides in a TBS-Clinic
- o person has an IQ >= 90
- o person has characteristics of Psychopathy and/or Antisocial Personality Disorder

### **Exclusion criteria**

o person has insufficient knowledge of Dutch , or does not dominate the Dutch language enough to understand the test instructions

- o person has a bad sight
- o person has an IQ <= 90
- o person has an psychotic or related disorder

## Study design

### **Design**

Study type: Observational non invasive

Intervention model: Crossover

Allocation: Randomized controlled trial

Masking: Double blinded (masking used)

Control: Active

Primary purpose: Other

### Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 11-05-2007

Enrollment: 60

Type: Actual

## **Ethics review**

Approved WMO

Date: 20-03-2007

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit

Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Approved WMO

Date: 20-06-2007

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit

Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Approved WMO

Date: 23-01-2008

Application type: Amendment

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 NL14320.068.06