

The Formation of a Criminal's Mindset

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ABSTRACT

Criminal behavior is viewed as a health problem. So, this research paper examines the problems caused to create for a criminal to be influenced to commit a crime. There is more attention on how factors like social, environmental, and biological patterns, can hold so much influence on a developing mind. The authors explore this problem through concepts, like experiments, research, and psychological biographies. Identification of 6 papers and 1 novel has led to the result of understanding the negative influence varies as the developing child grows up, but they all lead to committing a crime due to the type of abuse they have encountered. The reflection of someone's past can determine if they are going to commit a crime or not.

Introduction

Today, many ways can trigger different factors inside a developing criminal's mindset. A criminal's behavior often is a collaboration between both biological and environmental factors (Eichelberger, 2015). But within the biological factor, many branches can trigger this mindset. So, it is important to look at other aspects of how this type of mindset is developed. So, it is important to look at other aspects of how this type of mindset is developed. A criminal act is normally done by a person who has had poor childhood (any kind of abuse, can affect the child) or the situation/condition they currently live in (like their job, or financial issues, or even relationship problems), but there are many causes for criminal behavior (Raine, 2014). The research that is being performed is an informative paper, where it will highlight the importance of how a person is influenced to commit a crime. This research will include the social, biological, and behavioral factors that are major triggers to a criminal's mindset. This research is important because it helps bring recognition factors that people need to know to understand how and why a criminal committed the crime done. If The criminal's mindset is trigger by childhood traumas, then social, biological, and behavioral factors become more important because it has a major influence in the criminal's head.

Review of Literature

This research will reference five different types of analysis that can be a trigger factor for a criminal's mindset, these sources will lead to getting a better understanding of the breakdown of a criminal's mindset. The five different analyses include Antisocial Behavior, Genetics, Pregnancy, Brain Imaging, and Heart Rate.

This method was built on a comparison and analysis between multiple different sources. Those sources referred in the analyzation of the paper are from twenty different authors who have a doctorate in psychology and/or any other department relating to behavioral studies. Adrian Raine is from the University of Pennsylvania. Andrea Glenn is from the University of Alabama. Ángel Romero-Martínez, Macarena González, Marisol Lila, Enrique Gracia, Luis Martí-Bonmatí, Ángel Alberich-Bayarri, Rebeca Maldonado-Puig 3, Amadeo Ten-Esteve, and Luis Moya-Albiol are of the University of Valencia. Joseph Nedelec is from the University of Cincinnati. Kevin Beaver from Florida State University. Mark T. Berg, Matt DeLisi, Dr. Matt DeLisi, Christine M. Graeve, and Andy Hochstetler from Iowa

State University. George E. Higgins from the University of Louisville. Some of the sources are from a book or from a medical journal which both have not been recently published.

Antisocial Behavior

Early health risks can be related to social risk factors because infants will have a likely chance to develop both anti-social and aggressive behavior. Antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) is one of the most common disorders in criminal actions. Recently, research has focused on identifying which specific genes give the risk for antisocial behavior (Coppola, 2018). Several genetic variants have been identified that increase the risk for antisocial behavior. (Glenn, 2014) but the environment also impacts the behavior. Figure 1 shows the parts that are activated when a person is thinking about doing something antisocial.

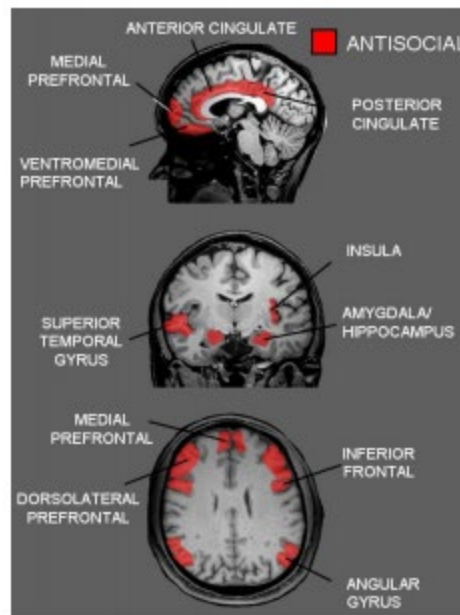


Figure 1: (Glenn & Raine, 2014)

Pregnancy

When a woman is pregnant, and she is either smoking or drinking alcohol, it has a huge toll on the developing child in her stomach because the mother is transferring her aggression to her offspring (Glenn & Raine, 2014). Nicotine also decreases the amount of oxygen in the tissue, which is very alarming for the offspring because it will lead the offspring to have some sort of brain disability. The first and second trimesters of pregnancy are very crucial because they will affect how the child's adulthood is going to turn out, whether they get arrested or not (Glenn & Raine, 2014). The role of a parent's behavior in a child's life determines his/her actions in the future like rejection or control.

Genetics

Alongside pregnancy, genetics plays a crucial role in a developing criminal's attitude and actions. In his scientific novel, Adrian Raine talks about a case study on Jeffrey Landrigan. Landrigan was adopted and his actions were completely different from his adoptive family, he started to drink and commit murder. While on death row, Landrigan found out about his biological father, who was a criminal, also his grandfather was a criminal (Raine, 2014). This case study shows that there is a sort of pattern between the three generations. Babies who have a criminal father are more likely to become criminals themselves. Another study mentioned by Raine is that identical twins are more likely to be

criminals compared to fraternal twins. The reason why is that identical twins are more connected to each other than fraternal twins, fraternal twins have only 50% of their genes in common (Raine, 2014). This statistic further explains, how the two different types of twins are different from each other, identical twins are more likely equal to one person due to their similar genes. Research has shown that some attitudes and disorders are influenced by genetic factors. For example, antisocial behavior and aggressiveness.

Brain Imaging

Brain technology imaging such as Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Computed Tomography (CT) scan, etc. have shown that criminals have small brains compared to an average person. With the help of these kinds of technology, scientists can tell if the criminal is going to do/ thinking about a criminal act (Martinez, 2019). The Anterior cingulate cortex controls the emotions, decision-making, and empathy of the mind, but in a criminal's brain it has low activity, and they have a higher risk of offending or causing a crime. The ventromedial prefrontal cortex has a role in decision-making and controlling emotional responses from the amygdala, which for criminals is much smaller and less active. Amygdala's function is the emotional reaction and fear response of a person but in a criminal's mind, it is shrunken and less active especially with people who have aggressive disorders. (Roache, 2014). In figure 2, it can be seen how different the two brains are from each other. People with Cavum Septum Pellucidum have a higher measure of antisocial and psychopathy and have had a few convictions.

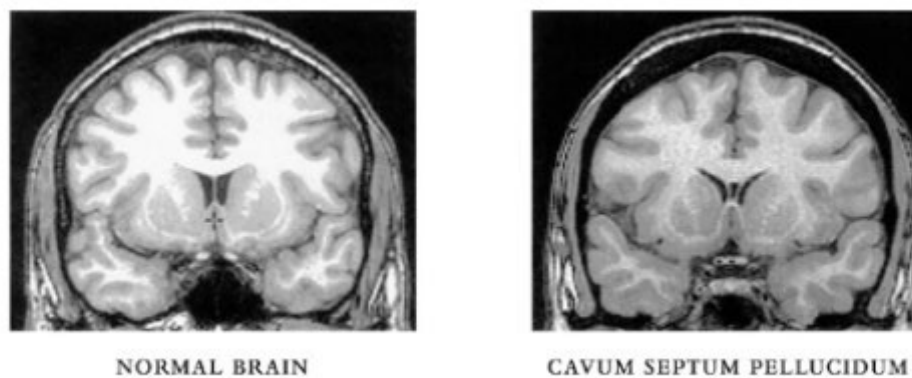


Figure 2: (Raine, 2013)

A Criminal's Heart Rate

“The heart is a central organ orchestrating the tendency to antisocial behavior and violent behavior” (Raine, 2014). Studies have shown that a convicted criminal has a slower heartbeat compared to a person who hasn't committed a crime (Eichelberger & Barnes, 2015). Having a low heart rate makes it easier for criminals to commit a crime because it shows that they lack fear. A low heart rate is an indication of antisocial behavior. An interesting note between men and women is that men's hearts beat about 6.1 beats lower than women. This statistic shows why there are more male criminals than women. In figure 3 the graph shows the reactivity of stress in beats per minute (BPM) in successful psychopaths, unsuccessful psychopaths, and controls.

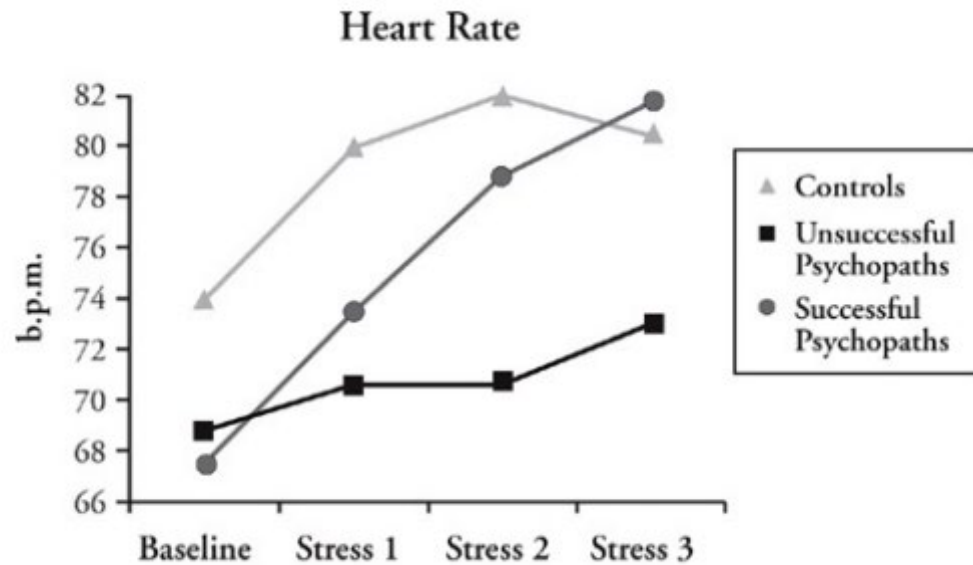


Figure 3: (Raine, 2014)

Conclusion

Overall, this paper highlighted the breakdown of the criminal's mindset, it introduced what red flags people should be aware of when dealing with a criminal. If the criminal's mindset is triggered by childhood traumas, then social, biological, and behavioral factors become more important because it has a major influence in the criminal's head. The hypothesis was partially correct because as mentioned in the research, a criminal's mindset can also be triggered by both rough pregnancies and genetics; childhood traumas are not the only factors that trigger a criminal's mindset. Social, biological, and behavioral factors do have a major influence in a criminal's life because it highlights the type of person they are especially out in public; this is where antisocial behavior comes in. As referenced to the first paragraph, Andrea Glenn from the University of Pennsylvania mentioned that several genetic variants have been identified that increase the risk for antisocial behavior. (Glenn, 2014). Each experience from these factors that the criminals face will later build up and turn into a crime scene. As a criminal grows up to adulthood, certain parts of their brain would work and function differently than normal people because their thought process has been altered. There were limitations to this research, for example, a few articles would explain their research findings in mathematical foundations that were not easy to follow and very advanced. Another limitation was that most papers focused on a criminal's mindset from a school perspective, which was not the age range, that was being targeted. A question for the future: Is there a way to 'cure' or control the criminal's mind into wanting to commit crimes? This research has repeated antisocial behavior many times, showing how much of a value it holds. There should be activities of some sort to help people of all ages not let that aspect turn them into criminals.

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