

Psychopathy: Precursor to Madness and its True Meaning



Allan N Blenman
Real World View of Math and Statistics
Dr. John Taylor
Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics
UNC Charlotte



Abstract:

Psychopathic serial killers are some of the most dangerous entities in the world. They're manipulative, guiltless, aggressive, and worst of all impossible to spot. Despite the many psychological differences between them and regular people there are no physiological differences. They look exactly like us on the surface, but underneath they have much darker impulses and sinister thoughts. So what is it exactly that causes such an individual to be born into this world? What is it that turns what should be perfectly normal people into killing machines with absolutely no empathy or remorse for their victims or the crimes they commit? There is much debate on the subject. Some say it is environmental stimulus during their childhood which has in a way stripped them of their humanity, others say it is a genetic trait passed from crazed father or mother to son or daughter but there is no definitive answer. Through research and theory, however, we hope to gain insight into the minds of those who could kill without feeling but instead on impulse and psychological need.

Daily the news and other media sources report of murder, robberies, and crimes of all shades. However, one consistent thing they have in common is they utilize the term psychopath quite often to describe these people not based upon psychological status but based upon the amorality of their crimes. Such redundant and incorrect usage of the term is liable to have an effect on the public, but has it? Were you to ask the general public what came to mind when they thought of the idea of a psychopath they would say a killer or possibly a raving lunatic. This belief has been well nurtured by the irresponsible media and their needless labeling of anyone who were to break from the social norm and do something of illegal proportions. In today's modern world does anyone truly remember what it means to be a psychopath or is it possible that years of being fed derogatory words and phrases by the media has altered the people's perception of the very idea of psychopathy?

In this research paper I've created I had set out to conclude my answers to these questions through research sources and methods. I questioned what is was that caused the condition of psychopathy in what used to be normal people, but also if perhaps media bias had affected public opinion of the idea of psychopathy. Based on my findings I was able to safely conclude that much of the populous has indeed formulated their own ideas of psychopathy based upon media influence and bias. When you say psychopath they think of murderer, intelligence, and killing for fun. They do not consider the deeper psychological basis beneath: the need, the reasons behind it, nor do they generally understand the qualities that truly define a psychopath. In my hunt for the cause of psychopathy I have learned of many environmental influences present in the childhoods of many psychopaths and the possible influence they may have had on them leading to their development as killers. Parental neglect, abuse, and early sexual experiences seemed to be a recurring theme in the childhoods of many of the psychopathic serial killers I studied. However, there are the occasional outliers that go against my data as could be expected due to the unpredictability of the human mind.