Psychopathy: Capturing an Elusive Construct

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The CAPP Saga

Measurement and Illusions

Building the Model
Principles Guiding Development

- Distinct from Measure
- Personality Pathology
- Hierarchical
- Lexical
- Clinical
- Simple Symptoms
- Dynamic
- Comprehensive

CAPP Approach to Development

“ideally, representations of the construct are developed through many procedures, such as literature reviews, expert judgements, analysis of relevant research, and direct observations of those considered to exemplify the construct. Steps are taken to ensure the behaviors provide a comprehensive representation of the construct.”


Top Down Approach

CAPP Review of Clinicians

CAPP Review of Research

CAPP Consult Subject Experts
"The lexical perspective provides an unusually strong rationale for the selection of variables in personality research. Heavily used predicates in the natural language are a powerful indicator of salient psychological phenomena."

(Jacqu, & Goldberg, 2003, p. 848)

Parsing Complexity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shallow Affect</th>
<th>Callous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detached (A)</td>
<td>Detached (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacks Emotional Depth (E)</td>
<td>Lacks Emotional Depth (E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncommitted (A)</td>
<td>Uncommitted (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncaring (A)</td>
<td>Uncaring (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unempathic (E)</td>
<td>Unempathic (E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insincere (D)</td>
<td>Insincere (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacks Anxiety (E)</td>
<td>Lacks Pleasure (E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacks Pleasure (E)</td>
<td>Lacks Awareness (E)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Developing the CAPP - Summary

Consult Subject Experts  Group Symptoms

Consult the Ancients  Refine Symptoms

How are Measures and Constructs Different
Psychopathy Found in Translation

“...the finding of similar factors in all these samples despite the profound differences of language and culture would provide strong evidence of the universality of personality trait structure.”

(McLear & Costa, 1997: p. 513)

Translations

English
Norwegian
Swedish
Danish
German
Dutch
Italian
Ukrainian
Spanish
French
Persian
Portuguese
Russian
Japanese
Hungarian
Thai
Latvian
Te Reo
Sesotho
Polish

CAPP and Diagnostic Criteria

CAPP Comprehensive

Diagnostic Criteria
Psycopathic Personality Disorder
“It is only the unique way in which the personality construct is seen in real patients that is ultimately of clinical value.”

Millon (2011; p. 296)