



Psychopathy assessment

PCL-R, CAPP, & SRP III-R12

- Intercorrelations

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1. Background

Psychopathy, following Cleckley's (1976), tradition, is a personality disorder characterized by affective, interpersonal and behavioral symptoms. The PCL-R, developed by Hare (1991), has long been regarded as the most valid and reliable instrument for assessing psychopathic personality. However, the instrument has been criticized for its emphasis on antisocial behavior and criminal history (Skeem & Cook, 2010). The PCL-R with its reliance on the person's behavioral history is not well suited to detect changes in personality, if such changes are indeed possible. Recently, a new assessment instrument aiming to overcome this restriction has been developed by Cook, Hart, Logan, and Michie (manuscript under preparation). The CAPP aims at encompassing the full domain of psychopathic personality disorder and is developed with the aim of detecting changes in personality over time. There also exist several self-report measures of psychopathy, and the SRP-III is one such promising measure (Paulhus & Williams, 2002).

2. Our study

We present some preliminary results from our study of risk factors for criminal behavior, conducted on inmates in Bergen prison and "non-criminal controls".

One of the objectives for the study is to look at the relationship between the psychopathic assessment instruments PCL-R, CAPP and SRP-III. For PCL-R and the SRP-III, we look at the 4 facets (the interpersonal facet, the affective facet, the impulsive lifestyle facet, and the antisocial facet) of psychopathy described by Bolt, Hare, Vitale, and Newman (2004). Equally for CAPP, we look at the 6 domains (the attachment domain, the behavioral domain, the cognitive domain, the dominance domain, the emotional domain and the self domain).

Correlational analyses were used to assess the inter-relationship between the instruments.

	PCL-R					CAPP						SRP III-R12 (self report)					
	Total Score	Interpersonal Facet	Affect Facet	Lifestyle Facet	Antisocial Facet	Total Score	Attachment Domain	Behavioral Domain	Cognitive Domain	Dominance Domain	Emotional Domain	Self Domain	Total Score	Interpersonal Manipulation	Callous Affect	Erratic Life Style	Criminal Tendencies
PCL-R	Total Score																
	Interpersonal Facet	.582**															
	Affect Facet	.611**	.456**														
	Lifestyle Facet	.815**	.202	.387*													
	Antisocial Facet	.760**	.159	.119	.670**												
CAPP	Total Score	.794**	.661**	.714**	.628**	.379*	.782**										
	Attachment Domain	.625**	.539**	.733**	.460**	.170	.000										
	Behavioral Domain	.830**	.319	.528**	.825**	.656**	.792**	.575**									
	Cognitive Domain	.795**	.513**	.590**	.731**	.481**	.927**	.614**	.840**								
	Dominance Domain	.562**	.799**	.581**	.262	.119	.848**	.613**	.457**	.709**							
	Emotional Domain	.565**	.301	.576**	.612**	.283	.780**	.621**	.646**	.737**	.500**						
	Self Domain	.635**	.738**	.632**	.370*	.219	.891**	.641**	.531**	.759**	.866**	.549**					
SRP III-R12	Total Score	.626**	.352	.132	.578**	.718**	.343	.326	.566**	.388*	.114	.155	.254				
	Interpersonal Manipulation	.521**	.532**	.227	.432*	.399*	.068	.085	.001	.037	.556	.421	.183	.840**			
	Callous Affect	.482**	.238	.111	.476**	.634**	.282	.244	.522**	.327	.023	.207	.183	.883**	.712**		
	Erratic Life Style	.622**	.291	.143	.582**	.682**	.118	.177	.002	.068	.902	.255	.316	.000	.000		
	Criminal Tendencies	.525**	.126	.192	.456**	.625**	.313	.268	.559**	.401*	.086	.137	.189	.932**	.684**	.683**	
			.499	.300	.010	.000	.082	.137	.001	.023	.641	.455	.301	.000	.000	.000	.801**

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

3. Preliminary results

The preliminary results for 36 participants (all prison inmates) show significant intercorrelations between the psychopathy measures. The PCL-R correlates most highly with the CAPP's Behavioral domain and the Total score of SRP-III. The Interpersonal Manipulation facet of SRP-III correlates most highly with CAPP, but the magnitude of the correlations are smaller. The emotional domain of the CAPP and affect facet in the PCL-R does not significantly correlate with any aspects of the SRP-III.

4. Conclusions

The results indicates a strong association between the different psychopathy assessment instruments, but it also underlines the differences. The finding that PCL-R correlates most highly with the Behavioral domain of the CAPP, supports the intention of the CAPP to cover different aspects of psychopathy than anti-social and criminal behavior.

The self-report measure SRP-III seems to assess some of the same aspects of psychopathy as PCL-R and CAPP. Especially the behavioral and interpersonal aspects seems to be picked up by the SRP-III. However, the affect and emotional segments of the PCL-R and CAPP appear not to be assessable through the SRP-III.

5. References

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