Blog Topic: The Mind of A Psychopath

(...)

Are psychopaths suffering from a ‘disease’? What is the direction of causality with respect to research findings involving the brain? Should they be held responsible for their actions? Should they be punished? Should considerations regarding the origins of psychopathy be introduced during trials of crimes like the Connecticut murders discussed above?

In my opinion Psychopaths are suffering from a disease that cannot be treated, because of the deficits that are present in their brains. Because of the way their brains are formed and because of the fact that we are unable to change the way they are formed i do not think that their is a treatment or despite some medical miracle we will ever be able to change the way the act because it doesn't seem possible for someone to have empathy taught to them or give them drugs that makes someone feel empathetic.

I think that they should be held responsible because it is clear that people with these disorders know what they are doing, and because of that fact and because of the way the United States law system set up that is enough to arrest/jail them. It is the same concept of how even if someone is declared mentally insane at the time they commit a crime they are still placed in a medical ward for the criminally insane until they are better and if they are suffering from something like psychopathy which i believe will never have a proper cure then they will be there for their entire lives, and given the other characteristics of the disease they are charming and give off good impressions so it would not be unlikely that they could be let out after a period of time because they seem normal enough to the average person.

I do not think that considerations for the origins of psychopathy should be brought into trials because of the fact that people might abuse this option in trials like they abuse the insanity plea currently, it would become very possible for people to claim a poor upbringing to what they have done, simply because not everyone who has had a poor upbringing has developed psychopathy. So if you where to bring that option into the equation many people fall into that category without belonging there. I think that this debate will continue for a long time because each side seems to have valid beliefs and good evidence to support their claims.
Blog Topic: **The Mind of A Psychopath**

(...) *Are psychopaths suffering from a ‘disease’? What is the direction of causality with respect to research findings involving the brain? Should they be held responsible for their actions? Should they be punished? Should considerations regarding the origins of psychopathy be introduced during trials of crimes like the Connecticut murders discussed above?*

This is a very controversial and touchy subject. I feel that people who commit these crimes to others should be put away because whether it is there fault or not they committed the crime and need to be punished. More research needs to be done on this topic, so we can further understand the mind of psychopaths. I can see why this could be seen as a disease because it’s not like all of us are out there committing these outrageous acts of violence and not caring who we hurt in the process. Since they have found a difference in the structure of the brain of a normal person and that of a psychopath, maybe there is a way to catch it and have an early intervention to try and structure the person where that part of the brain does not have control over them. People who struggle with this should have one on one help with someone who can help them understand what they did wrong and better control their actions. I don’t know if they can be cured, but if this is how they were born, we must find ways to help them control themselves before they hurt others or themselves. The brain isn’t fully developed until the later years, so maybe early intervention, when people notice certain acts that reflect psychopath characteristics, will be effective. Regardless of if they get help or don’t, if they commit a crime, they’ve got to take responsibility. Yes that is unfortunate, but at the same time that’s how the world works. For every action there is an equal and just consequence.