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?

I think that this topic is very hard to understand and hard to answer the questions given because I seem to be going back and forth on the answers. As a matter of fact I have gone back and forth between whether psychopath is a disease or not. First off, is there a treatment for psychopathy? I think it depends on the person and treatment given. If someone is put in the right environment and given one-on-one treatment and they have a lot of support and people wanting them to succeed, I think it is possible. However, if someone does not feel the need to change or become better or if they lack the support needed from friends and family I think they can easily manipulate the situation and deceive one into thinking they are better. As mentioned above a psychopath seems to be charming they can also manipulate others. If this is the case, they can easily go on to commit another crime once a therapist believes that they are able to be out in the world on their own.

Are psychopaths suffering from a ‘disease’? I believe that they are suffering from a disease. I really do believe that psychopaths do not know what is happening while it is happening in the moment. With that I must say that I think today many people almost use ‘psychopath’ as an excuse for their actions. I think that sometimes when a person does something wrong and something they regret, they may say that something was not right at the time or claim that they have a personality disorder which in turn causes them to undergo lots of testing. I think a lot of people say this in order to avoid a death penalty or a life sentence. Because of this, I think it is very important to determine what is considered a true psychopath and to be aware of the different personality disorders.

Should they be held responsible for their actions? Should they be punished? I think that even if they are truly suffering from this form of ‘disease’ they should be held responsible for their actions and punished. Even if a psychopath does not feel emotions, they should know right from wrong. They should know the laws and know that going into a school and killing young, innocent children is wrong. Given that, if they are severely or mentally troubled I think that they should go to a facility where some sort of treatment is offered. After completing this treatment and after they seem to be doing better, then I think that they should continue to serve their time for their actions in prison. Should considerations regarding the origins of psychopathy be introduced during trials of crimes like the Connecticut murders discussed above? I don’t think that they should be introduced in trials. I think that this would just be an excuse to justify the person’s actions and I don’t think that it would really help. Psychopathy is a very touchy subject today and I think it is a good topic to learn more about and become aware of.