



## NEUROCOGNITIVE SIGNATURES OF PSYCHOPATHIC TRAITS

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### Abstract

Psychopathy comprises a constellation of psychopathic traits that includes affective and interpersonal characteristics, as well as impulsive and antisocial behaviours. The conceptualization of psychopathy as dimensional in nature posits challenges to its scientific study at three distinct levels of analysis: (a) at the level of the assessment; (b) at the level of the study of the basic mechanisms underlying the expression of its traits; and (c) at the level of the study of the manifestation of psychopathic traits in specific forms of social behaviour. The talk will focus on recent neuroscientific advances regarding the basic mechanisms and social manifestations of psychopathic traits. It will discuss how these advances provide meaningful neurophysiological correlates of the basic etiological mechanisms theorized by the dual-process model of psychopathy. This model suggests that psychopathy results from two distinct processes: one involving affective and interpersonal deficits and the other involving impulsive and antisocial behaviours. By exploring these neurophysiological correlates, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of the underlying causes of psychopathy. Furthermore, the address will extend the study of the behavioural and neurophysiological correlates of psychopathy to social cognition and social decision-making. Overall, the studies presented will integrate findings from multiple levels of analysis to provide a comprehensive understanding of psychopathy. They will highlight the importance of considering both the basic mechanisms and the social manifestations of psychopathic traits, ultimately contributing to a more nuanced and holistic understanding of this complex and multifaceted condition.



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**Faculty of Psychology**  
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