

Background

Personality has been looked into as a possible insight into why people decide to commit crimes. However, it is somewhat unclear what role it plays, if any, in the criminal's mind. In this study, we will clarify suspected relationships and possibly identify new ones between: Personality, Impulsivity, Self-Esteem, Motivation, Personal Background and Criminality, respectively.

Introduction

- Personality:** *Psycho-social aspects of a person* ^{1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 26, 28, 30, 38, 42, 49, 51, 53, 57}
- Impulsivity:** *Likelihood of one to act without thought* ^{30, 35, 37, 38, 44, 50, 56, 57, 58}
- Self-Esteem:** *Self-image/worth* ^{7, 8, 25, 29, 36, 39, 40, 43, 45, 48, 52, 54}
- Motivation:** *What drives a person; values* ^{6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 31, 46, 47, 51}
- Personal Background:** *Factors in one's life* ^{3, 23, 27, 32, 33, 41, 58, 59}
- Criminality:** *Status of being a criminal* ^{3, 12, 18, 19, 22, 23, 27, 28, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 40, 41, 42, 49, 50, 52, 53, 55, 56, 58, 59}

Gap in the Research

Some previous results have been unclear and somewhat inconclusive. No study before has combined all these traits into one singular assessment to test for each one's correlation with criminality.

Hypothesis

When given this assessment, those who have and have not committed crimes will show differences in:

- **Personality**
- **Impulsivity**
- **Self-Esteem**
- **Motivation**
- **Personal Background**

Literature Review

Personality van Dam et al. (2015) ¹⁷ <i>Differences in Big Five (↑C, ↓A, ↓O, ↓E)</i> van Gelder & De Vries (2012) ⁵² <i>Honesty-Humility & Emotionality; large role in crime</i>	Motivation Antonaccio et al (2011) ³ <i>Unstable country, higher crime rate → more motivated to commit</i> Madarie (2017) ³⁰ <i>Applied motivational types to cyber-criminals</i>
Impulsivity Swogger et al. (2015) ⁴⁹ <i>"premeditated ... aggression predicts violent recidivism"</i>	Self-Esteem Trzeniewski et al. (2006) ⁵¹ <i>Low self-esteem in adolescence, more likely to commit.</i>
Personal Background Antonaccio et al. (2011) ³ <i>Unstable country, higher crime rate → more motivated to commit</i> Fergusson et al. (2008) ²² <i>Childhood lead exposure → more likely to commit later on</i> León-Carrión & Ramos (2003) ²⁶ <i>Untreated head injury → more likely to commit</i> Zoutewelle-Terovan et al. (2012) ⁵⁸ <i>Family formation reduced offending in males</i>	

Methods

- Survey:
- Personal Background Survey
 - Big Five ^{12, 16, 17, 23, 27}
 - H-H & E (HEXACO) ^{4, 5, 19, 20, 25}
 - Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale ^{24, 38, 42, 44, 47, 53}
 - UPPS-P Impulsive Behavior Scale ⁵⁶
 - Portrait Values Questionnaire ^{45, 46}
 - BIS/BAS ¹⁰
- Contacted prisons, then re-entry; minimal results. Expanded to the internet, mainly Reddit. Began collecting responses.

Current Results

To be added after scoring completed

Anticipated Results

- Correlations between:
- Personality
 - Impulsivity
 - Personal Background
 - Motivation
 - Self-Esteem
- & Criminality**

Discussion

This is ongoing; we are still collecting responses. By the end, this study will assist in clarifying potential relationships between environmental and psychological factors and criminality. Being able to identify differences can help in evaluating risk of criminality in the future.

Conclusion

Personality can offer much needed insight into criminality. Deciding to commit an offense begins in the brain and the mind, so that is where we should be focusing the find any indicator that displays differences between those who have and have not decided to commit crimes. Understanding personality differences between those who have and have not committed a crime(s) can lead to a deeper understanding of criminal psychology, which could lead to more detailed psychological profiles.

Future Research

We would like to look into the potential relationship between crime severity and psychological factors; i.e., do those who committed more severe crimes have more extreme traits than those who committed less severe crimes?