

STUDENT RESEARCH WEEK

POSTERS · TALKS CREATIVE WORK

Fifty Shades of Risk: Psychopathic Traits, Gender and Risky Behaviour

Poster

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Abstract

It has been proposed that elements of the triarchic model (Boldness, Meanness, and Disinhibition) lead psychopaths to continually violate social contracts and engage in impulsive risk taking behaviours (Ermer & Kiehl, 2010; Hall et al., 2014). Given that our personality traits influence our decisions regarding potentially risky situations, psychopathic traits are highly relevant in this regard. Further, recent research suggests that risky behaviours may manifest differently in males and females, where both the types of behaviours and the associated personality traits vary as a function of gender (Swogger et al., 2010). For example, fearlessness is associated with risk-taking in males, while sensation seeking and impulsiveness is related to risky behaviours in both genders (Fulton et al., 2010). Finally, decisions about risky behaviour also may be influenced by the degree to which one associates risk with positive or negative outcomes (Foster et al., 2009). Individuals high in psychopathic traits often fail to consider negative consequences of their actions, and interpret risky situations in terms of their potential rewards (Zuckerman, 1994). As a result, this project was designed to collectively evaluate the influence of psychopathic traits, gender, and risk consequences on decisions concerning a variety of risky behaviours. As Personality traits remain stable over time understanding these personality variables may guide interventions to reduce Risky behaviours and lessen the impact of the consequences of such behaviour.