

**Know your 'path....**

**A brief introduction to  
Psychopathy...**

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# Overview...

- ▶ Why psychopathy?
- ▶ The case of Michael Stone
- ▶ What is psychopathy and why so much confusion?
- ▶ Reassessing diagnosis and measurement
- ▶ Emergence of the Comprehensive Assessment of Psychopathic Personality

# The case of Michael Stone... and his “Dangerously Severe Personality Disorder”

- ▶ career criminal – significant documented personality disorders
- ▶ Repeatedly disclosed violent detailed fantasies
- ▶ Released regardless...carried out his fantasies
- ▶ Public outcry...media uproar...
- ▶ Previous law around treatment of PD abolished
- ▶ Emergence of “Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder Units”



# Now for the 'paths....

- ▶ Psychopath
- ▶ Sociopath
- ▶ Anti-social Personality Disorder
- ▶ What's the difference...why the confusion?



# Psychopathy...

- Absence of “moral compass”—devoid of fear
- Lack of (inability?!) to feel empathy and remorse
- Superficially charming/glib/garrulous
- Meticulous in carrying out crimes/plots to avoid detection/risk to self
- Likely genetic—sig research shows underdeveloped parts of the brain

# Sociopathy...

- No genetic causes–The clue is in the name!–societal/external forces to blame
- Moral compass skewed rather than absent
- Can interact with the social world in a meaningful way
- Have a sense of fear & “right and wrong”

# Anti-social personality Disorder

- Ongoing pattern of disregard and violation of the rights of others
- Failure to conform to social norms with respect to lawful behaviour
- Deceitfulness/impulsivity
- Irresponsibility/aggressive/manipulative behaviour
- Evidence of conduct disorder before aged 15

# Psychopaths...but not criminals

## “Successful psychopaths”

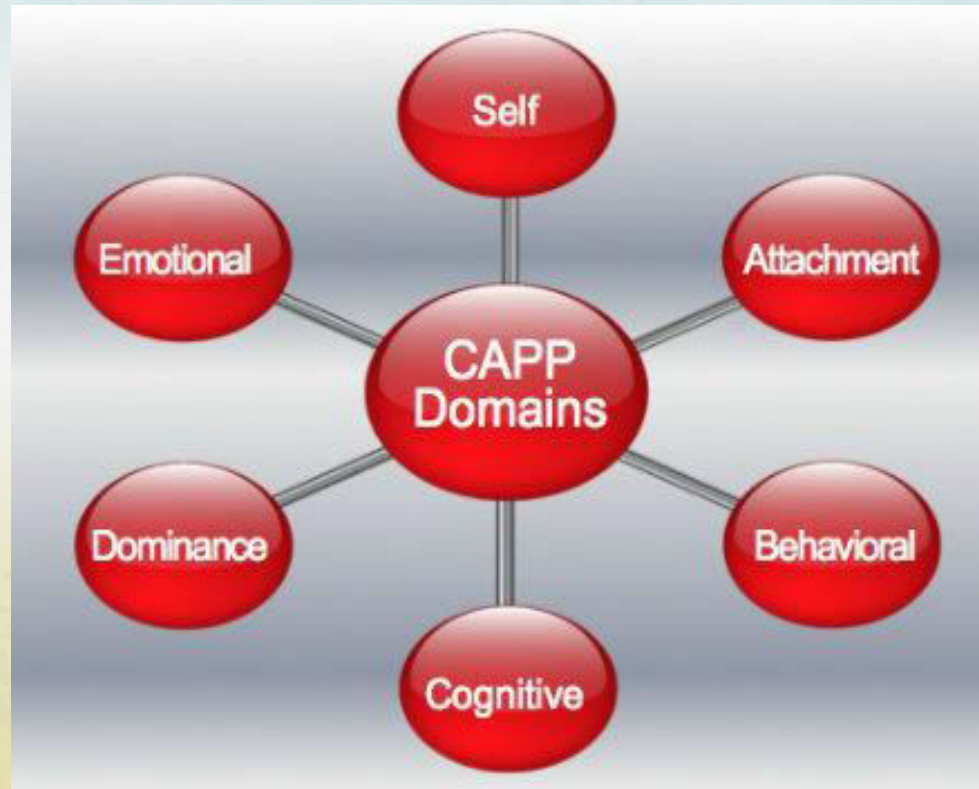
- ▶ Traditional approaches don't fit
- ▶ ASPD is not always evident in psychopathy
  - more likely in sociopathy
- ▶ Hare–Snakes in Suits



# PCL-R: The holy grail of Psychopathy?

- ▶ Has the measure become confused with the construct?
- ▶ Issues around using PCL-R outside of a forensic and male population
- ▶ Newer approaches moving away from a “lifetime score”

# Comprehensive Assessment Psychopathic Personality



Questions...  
and maybe answers...!

