

# Is there a Psychopathic Early Career Path?

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# Contents

- The research gap
- Methodology
- Results
- Implications
- Limitations

# The Early Career Steps of Psychopaths

- ❑ Psychopathy related to career interests (Henley, 2001; Jonason et al., 2014)
- ❑ Psychopathy related to educational choices (Clow & Scott, 2007; Wilson & McCarthy, 2011)



# Research Gaps

- Inconsistent results
- Use of total psychopathy scores
- No UK research



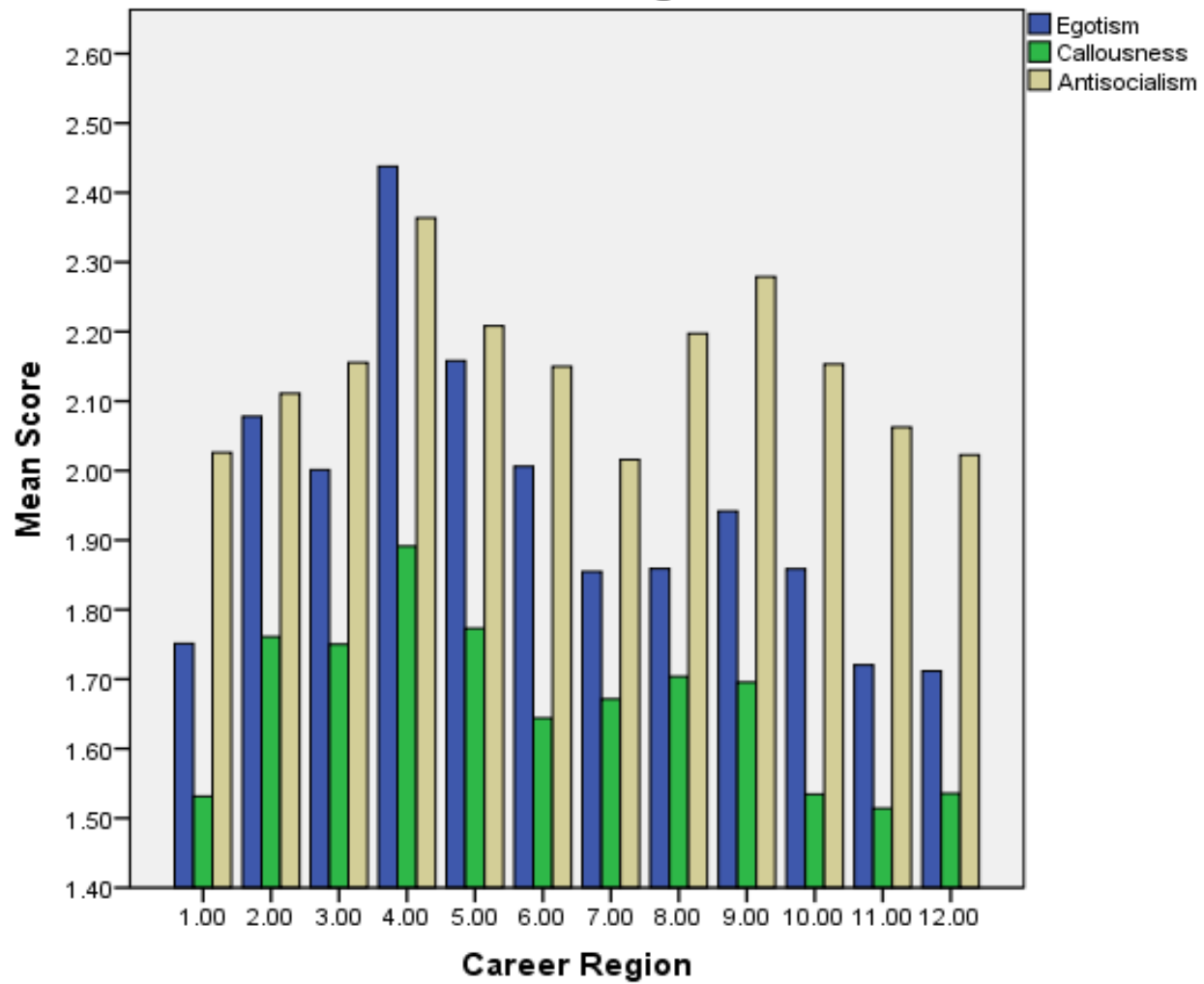
# Methodology

- ❑ Internet-mediated self-report questionnaire
- ❑ 913 undergraduate students
- ❑ Measure of psychopathy – 3 factor revision of the Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy Scale (Brinkley et al., 2008)
- ❑ UNIACT-S (ACT, 2009) measure of career interests (based on RIASEC model)
- ❑ Degree subject

# Results – Career Interests

Interest Scale	Psychopathy Factor	Predicted Relationship	Relationship Found
<b>Realistic</b>	Egotism	Positive	None
	Callousness		
	Antisocialism		
<b>Social</b>	Egotism	Negative	Negative
	Callousness		Negative
	Antisocialism		None
<b>Investigative</b>	Egotism	None	Positive
	Callousness		None
	Antisocialism		None
<b>Artistic</b>	Egotism	None	Negative
	Callousness		None
	Antisocialism		Positive
<b>Enterprising</b>	Egotism	Positive	Positive
	Callousness		None
	Antisocialism		None
<b>Conventional</b>	Egotism	Positive	Positive
	Callousness		None
	Antisocialism		Negative

# Results – Career Interests



# Results – Educational Choices

GOT	Sig. Predictor Variable	B	S.E	Wald	Exp( $\beta$ )
Realistic	Gender (=male)	3.409	.757	20.286	30.241
Social	Social desirability*	1.073	.560	3.673	2.925
Enterprising	Age	-.074	.037	4.093	.929
	Egotism	1.548	.370	17.463	4.702
Conventional	Egotism	2.747	.789	12.116	15.599

\*marginally significant at 0.1 level  
 Artistic courses comparison group



# Implications

- ❑ Enterprising careers of interest to psychopathic undergraduates.
- ❑ Social careers opposite – not attractive to psychopaths.
- ❑ Conventional careers (particularly finance) of interest to a younger generation of high Egotism but not necessarily high Antisocialism individuals
- ❑ Enterprising and Conventional degree courses being studied by higher psychopathy individuals.
- ❑ Prestige could explain results.
- ❑ Interests don't always translate into choices – difficulty?
- ❑ Factors of psychopathy crucial – Egotism and Antisocialism work in opposing ways
- ❑ Egotism is the most important psychopathic predictor when choice is determined by the individual (interests and educational choice)

# Limitations

- Cross-sectional design
- Sample
- Measures
  - Limitations of self-report psychopathy
  - LSRP
  - UNIACT
- Non-normally distributed data

# Questions?

# References

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