

---

## Editorial

*K. Schmeck, C. Danielsson, M. Schmid (Eds.)*

This volume contains the abstracts of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of EFCAP, the European Association for Forensic Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychology and other involved Professions, in Basel, September 7-10, 2010. The variety of topics and the diversity of approaches reflect the development of adolescent forensic psychiatry in the last few years.

Two years after the first EFCAP Congress in Amsterdam there is again the chance to come together to discuss new scientific research and to exchange ideas about the origins and the assessment, treatment and prevention of antisocial and delinquent behaviour in children and adolescents with mental problems. Addressed are all professionals at the interface of medical, judicial and educational systems who are concentrated on children and adolescents with legal and psychiatric problems. Both established and young professionals in the field of adolescent forensic psychiatry and allied disciplines will contribute new insights and innovative perspectives on the current frontiers in clinical practice and research. Seven keynote-lectures and more than 150 oral presentations, posters and workshops offer the chance to learn more about the ongoing development in the fascinating field of forensic adolescent psychiatry and its psychotherapeutic and educational approaches.

The Book of Abstracts contains the keynote lectures (K), oral presentations (O), workshops (W) and poster presentations (P) that are presented at the conference. These presentations cover a broad range of topics that are of high relevance to our field. They include neurobiological approaches like neuroimaging, neurochemistry or psychophysiology. Other presentations are focused on assessment procedures or clinical (psychotherapy and/or psychopharmacology) and educational approaches to the treatment and prevention of antisocial behaviour in youths.

We thank Pabst Science Publishers for publishing this Book of Abstracts as a supplement to their journal "Forensische Psychiatrie und Psychotherapie" (Vol. 17 (2010) Supplement 2). It is our hope that this survey gives you an insight into the fascinating scientific and clinical develop-

---

ments of adolescent forensic psychiatry, even if there is still so much to do on our way to a profound understanding of violent and destructive behaviour in children and adolescents with severe mental problems that should help us to improve our approaches to assessment, prevention and treatment.

*Klaus Schmeck, Célia Danielsson, Marc Schmid  
Basel, September 2010*

---

## Workshop

### Psychopathy-Checkliste für Jugendliche (PCL:YV)

Eintägiger Workshop zu den Grundlagen des Psychopathy-Konzepts, zu Anwendung und Interpretation der PCL:YV sowie Beurteilerschulung

**W1/W3**

### Psychopathy-Checkliste für Jugendliche (PCL:YV) Eintägiger Workshop zu den Grundlagen des Psychopathy-Konzepts, zu Anwendung und Interpretation der PCL:YV sowie Beurteilerschulung

*K. Sevecke\*, M.K. Krischer (Cologne, DE)*

kathrin.sevecke@uk-koeln.de

Kursinhalte:

- Überblick über Theorie und Forschung im Hinblick auf Psychopathy bei Jugendlichen
- Messung von Psychopathy anhand der PCL:YV und dem PCL:YV-Interview
- Auswirkungen der Diagnose, Stabilität und Prädiktion
- Bewertung der Einsatzmöglichkeiten, aber auch der potenziellen Gefahren bei der Verwendung der PCL:YV
- Schulung in der Anwendung, Bewertung und Interpretation von PCL:YV
- Übung der Kodierung anhand von standardisierten Beispielfällen

---

# Workshop

## Multisystemic Therapy (MST) system-oriented interventions in Europe

**W2/W4**

### **System-oriented interventions in Europe – Workshop on MST**

*T. Ogden\* (Oslo, NO)*

terje.ogden@atferdssenteret.no

The workshop starts with a brief introduction of the theoretical foundation of Multisystemic Therapy (MST), the research supporting the program, and also the the core components and the organizational structure of MST. The stage will be set for a problem oriented discussion on the task of transporting an implementing US developed programs nationwide, emphasizing topics like implementation drivers, program integrity and treatment fidelity. Norwegian research results will be used in order to illustrate the trans-atlantic relevance of MST and the challenges of further developments like the combination of MST and contingency management (CM) in the treatment of drug abuse. A particular focus will be on the debate between program specific as opposed to common factors in predicting treatment success. Moreover, the challenges of conducting randomised controlled trials in real world practice will be commented on, as will the controversy in Europe concerning meta-analyses and systematic reviews of MST. The format of the work-shop will hopefully contribute to a lively, interactive session and participants are invited to contribute to the workshop with their ideas, viewpoints, and experiences.

---

## Welcome reception / Keynote lecture

**K5**

### **Future of EFCAP**

*Th. Doreleijers\* (Duiwendrecht, NL)*

t.doreleijers@debascul.com

In the Netherlands significant changes are taking place in the field of care of juvenile delinquents. As from January 1, 2010, juveniles with a judicial child welfare order may no longer be placed in a juvenile justice facility but have to be given a place in a youth care institution. This measure has led to the recent closure of three juvenile justice facilities with the resultant redundancy of hundreds of well-qualified employees.

Screening and diagnosis of juvenile suspects are undergoing sweeping changes: the BARO has been expanded to include risk factors for recidivism and its empirical basis has been improved; validation studies are being planned.

More and more interventions applied within juvenile justice facilities have been legitimized by the Justice Intervention Authorization Commission.

And last but not least a great deal of highly innovative academic research has been carried out or initiated. Significant results will be presented at this congress.

In Europe, it would be impossible to imagine forensic practice without EFCAP. For example, the BARO has been translated into English, German, Finnish, Russian, Spanish and Italian. International collaboration is proliferating. This congress is a manifestation of this and will generate new collaboration. Ever so much gratitude to our Swiss colleagues who have planned this congress and many many thanks to all of our European colleagues who will give meaning to this congress.

---

# Neurobiology of aggression – implications for research and practice

**K6**

## Neurobiology of aggression – implications for research and practice

*J. Blair\* (Bethesda, US)*

JamesBlair@mail.nih.gov

In this talk, I will cover three main issues. First, I will make a distinction between instrumental/goal-directed aggression and threat/frustration-based reactive aggression. Second, I will consider neural systems involved in decision making and why their disruption can lead to an increased risk for instrumental aggression. Third, I will consider the neural systems mediating reactive aggression and how specific forms of dysfunction can dysregulate these systems, increasing the risk for reactive aggression.

---

# Neurobiological markers of antisocial behaviour

O7

## Cortisol and DHEA diurnal rhythm and stress reactivity in adolescents with Conduct Disorder

G. Fairchild\*, S. van Goozen, S. Stollery, J. Brown, J. Gardiner, J. Herbert, I. Goodyer (Cambridge, Cardiff, UK)

philipp.sterzer@charite.de

**Background:** A number of studies have reported reduced cortisol secretion in antisocial populations (1). However, many were subject to serious methodological limitations such as failing to control for time of day of cortisol collection, and it was frequently unclear whether the differences reflected abnormal cortisol secretion at rest or under stressful conditions (or both).

**Methods:** We assessed the diurnal profile of cortisol, including the cortisol awakening response (CAR), over three days in a large cohort of adolescents with Conduct Disorder (CD) and control subjects. We also measured DHEA levels in the same samples, since DHEA has antiglucocorticoid properties and is reported to be elevated in children with disruptive behaviour. Finally, we employed a laboratory-based stress test involving induction of frustration/provocation to assess cortisol/DHEA reactivity in the same individuals.

**Results:** Contrary to many previous studies, we found no evidence for reduced cortisol secretion under resting conditions in either male or female adolescents with CD. There were also no group differences in the size of the CAR and at some sampling times (in the evening), cortisol levels were higher in participants with CD. Furthermore, there were no group differences in DHEA secretion under resting conditions. Under stress, the situation was strikingly different: male adolescents with CD showed blunted cortisol and DHEA responses to frustration/provocation relative to healthy controls, despite reporting similar increases in negative mood states.

**Conclusion:** Adolescents with CD show normal (or even increased) cortisol secretion under naturalistic conditions, when measured in a highly controlled and detailed manner. In contrast, cortisol and DHEA responses to psychological stress are markedly reduced in CD. This pattern may

---

be a result of dysfunction in limbic brain regions that normally activate the cortisol system when the individual is under stress, such as the amygdala and anterior cingulate cortex.

### Reference

1. van Goozen et al. (2007). *Psychological Bulletin*, 133, 149-182.

## O8

### **Cortisol reactivity in boys with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and disruptive behaviour problems: the impact of callous unemotional traits**

C. Stadler\*, A. Kröger, W. Clement, C. Freitag (Frankfurt, DE)  
philipp.sterzer@charite.de

**Objective:** There is a body of literature demonstrating an association between altered hypothalamic pituitary adrenal (HPA) axis reactivity and disruptive behavior. Disruptive behavior symptoms often are prevalent in children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Findings on HPA-axis reactivity in ADHD, however, are rather inconsistent. Since it was found that psychopathic traits are associated with a specific subtype of disruptive behavior that might define a distinct neurobiological profile, the main objective of the present study was to investigate whether two groups of ADHD patients with high or low callous unemotional traits (CU) traits differ in cortisol reactivity.

**Method:** Subjects were 36 boys with ADHD and disruptive behavior symptoms aged 8 to 14 years. Salivary cortisol probes were taken before and repeatedly after an experimental standardized stress test. CU traits were assessed with the 24 items Inventory of Callous-Unemotional traits (ICU) originally developed by Frick (2003). In order to investigate whether patients with high CU traits exhibited lower cortisol and emotional reactivity to the experimental stress situation, two groups of high and low CU patients were created. To investigate our main objective, ANOVAs with repeated measures were conducted with respect to cortisol reactivity with group as between-subjects factor and time as within-subjects factor.

**Results:** Whereas patients scoring high on CU traits did not differ from patients with low CU traits in psychosocial risk factors, socio-economic stage or IQ, they showed a blunted HPA axis reactivity to the experimentally induced stress.

---

**Conclusion:** Results underscore the need to consider specific personality traits in investigating neurobiological correlates in ADHD with disruptive behavior problems.

O9

### **Biosocial interaction: HPA-axis functioning and social environment as predictors for antisocial behaviour**

*E. Platje\*, L.M.C. Nauta-Jansen, R. Vermeiren, Th. Doreleijers, P.A.C. van Lier, J.M. Koot, W. Meeus (Amsterdam, Leiden, NL)*  
philipp.sterzer@charite.de

**Background:** Antisocial behavior has often been related to decreased HPA-axis functioning. Results however are inconsistent, particularly in normal population studies. Previous neurobiological research however, focused on neurobiological risk exclusively, whereas a bulk of research exists on social risk factors for antisocial behavior. These social studies in turn, hardly ever include possible biological factors. Whereas the biosocial interaction model states that when neurobiological and social risk factors are present in conjunction, the likelihood of showing antisocial behavior is increased exponentially, as opposed to when either biological or social risk factors are present (Raine 2002). To date however, the biosocial interaction remains largely uninvestigated with respect to HPA-axis functioning. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the biosocial interaction of HPA-axis functioning and social risk factors for predicting antisocial behavior over time.

**Methods:** Participants were 280 boys and 217 girls from a normal population sample, with over-sampling of high-risk individuals. Antisocial behavior was assessed by the CBCL and YSR at age 13, 14 and 15. As biological factor, the cortisol awakening response (CAR) was determined in saliva sampled at awakening, 30 and 60 minutes later at age 14. Social risk factors at the level of the family (parenting practices, relationships), delinquent peers and neighborhood (SES and urbanization) were measured at age 13, 14 and 15.

**Results:** First cross-sectional data on neurobiological risk factors shows the expected decreased cortisol awakening response in antisocial girls compared to control girls (CBCL score >67 on externalizing behavior,  $t=2,487$ ,  $p<.05$ ). Antisocial boys do not differ on cortisol awakening responses from control boys.

**Conclusions:** Interactions between these neurobiological and social risk factors over time are being investigated. Results and conclusions of the

---

biosocial interaction of HPA-axis functioning and social risk factors will be presented.

**O10**

### **Heart rate during stress predicts reoffending in delinquent male adolescents**

*M. de Vries-Bouw\**, A. Popma, L.M.C. Nauta-Jansen, P. van de Ven, Th. Doreleijers, R. Vermeiren (Amsterdam, Leiden, NL)

philipp.sterzer@charite.de

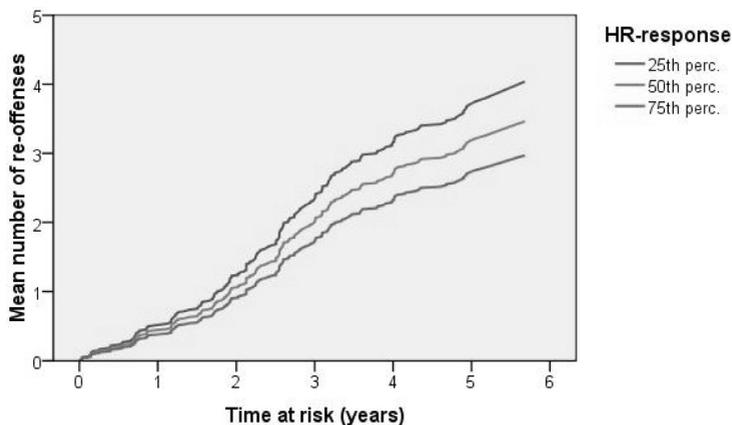
**Background:** Lower resting heart rate and heart rate during stress are robust markers for antisocial behavior in juveniles. A single previous study indicated lower resting heart rate in adolescence to predict future and persistent criminality in adulthood. However, longitudinal research on the predictive value of heart rate markers for persistent delinquent behavior during adolescence is lacking. Therefore, in the present prospective longitudinal study it was examined whether heart rate in resting and stressful conditions in delinquent male adolescents predicts re-offending rates during five years follow-up.

**Methods:** Participants were 112 boys (mean age 13,7 years) attending a delinquency diversion program after committing a minor offense. Heart rate was measured at initial assessment in resting conditions and in response to a standardized public speaking task. Official registered re-offending was examined after 5-year follow-up. A Cox proportional hazards regression was performed with time to first re-offense as outcome (single event model). Second, a Cox proportional hazards regression for recurrent events was performed, taking all re-offenses during follow-up into account (recurrent event model).

**Results:** After 5-year follow-up, 68% of the participants re-offended with a median of 2 re-offenses per participant (min 1 – max 25). The single event model showed a trend for lower heart rate during stress (HR-stress) to predict re-offending (hazard ratio = ,979;  $p = ,088$ ). Resulting from the recurrent event model, lower HR-stress and lower heart rate response to stress (HR-response) significantly predicted more re-offending (hazard ratio HR-stress = ,972;  $p = ,038$ ; hazard ratio HR-response = ,957;  $p = ,005$ ). This means that a decrease of HR-response with 5 bpm, increases the risk for more frequent re-offending with 1,25 (see fig. 1).

**Conclusion:** Although effect sizes are small, results indicate that lower heart rate responsivity to stress may be a neurobiological marker for persistent delinquent behavior during adolescence. To our knowledge, this

is the first study in which heart rate responsivity to a stressor was studied longitudinally in relation to re-offending. Our finding needs further exploration. Interactions with social factors should be investigated (and will be in the remains of our study), to determine the possibilities to add this neurobiological factor to screening programs.



## O11

### Low electrodermal fear conditioning predisposes to childhood aggression and adult crime

A. Raine\* (Philadelphia, US)

philipp.sterzer@charite.de

Amygdala dysfunction is theorized to give rise to poor fear conditioning which in turn predisposes to aggression and crime, but it is not known if poor conditioning precedes criminal offending. This paper reviews the work on fear conditioning and antisocial behavior and highlights two recent studies from our laboratory. In study 1 electrodermal fear conditioning activity was recorded from 200 male and female children at ages 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 years. Antisocial/aggressive and hyperactive-inattentive measures were collected at age 8, while social adversity was assessed at age 3. Poor electrodermal fear conditioning from ages 3 to 8 years was associated with aggressive behavior at age 8 in both males and females. In study 2, fear conditioning was assessed using the same paradigm in 1,795 three-year-old children, and outcome for criminal offending obtained at age 23 years. Findings from study 1 showed that poor electrodermal fear condi-

---

tioning from ages 3 to 8 years was associated with aggressive behavior at age 8 in both males and females. Criminals showed significantly reduced electrodermal fear conditioning at age 3 compared to matched controls. Findings from study 2 showed that poor fear conditioning at age 3 predisposed to crime at age 23. It is hypothesized that poor fear conditioning early in life implicates amygdala and ventral prefrontal dysfunction and a lack of fear to socializing punishments in young children who grow up to become criminals. Findings are discussed within the context of a neurodevelopmental contribution to aggression and crime, and the capability of the fear conditioning paradigm in a longitudinal context to offers a relatively unique window into the interface between developmental science, neuroscience, and clinical science.

---

## Risk assessment

O12

### Is there a need for a SVR-20 Junior?

*D.P. Boer\* (Hamilton, NZ)*

drdoug@waikato.ac.nz

**Background:** The risk posed by adolescent sex offenders is arguably well-assessed by the Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism (ERASOR; Worling & Curwen, 2001) and the Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol - II (J-SOAP-II; Prentky & Righthand, 2003). However, users of both of these instruments have suggested that these tests miss certain variables currently in the Sexual Violence Risk - 20 (SVR-20; Boer, Hart, Kropp & Webster, 1997).

**Method:** The items of the ERASOR and J-SOAP-II were examined in terms of their coverage of the current empirical risk literature.

**Results:** The ERASOR and J-SOAP-II do address many of the empirically-based factors that are related to risk by adolescent sexual offenders, but there are also some important factors that are either missed or not addressed adequately by the use of either or both of these instruments.

**Conclusion:** There is arguably a need for a SVR-20 "Junior" - many of the current SVR-20 items are applicable to younger sexual offenders, but the items are not defined appropriately for such usage. In addition, there are items not in the SVR-20 that would be required for adolescent application. A preliminary sketch of suggested items will be presented.

O13

### SAVRY risk and protective factors on recidivism by a forensic population in a child- and youth psychiatry residential facility in Antwerp, Flanders, Belgium

*T. De Clippele\*, D. Deboutte, D. Van West (Antwerp, BE)*

tony.declippele@zna.be

**Background:** Adolescents with psychiatric pathology and severe antisocial behaviour problems tend to commit crimes and risk to be placed under the juvenile court. Sometimes they are placed in forensic child- and youth psychiatry. The aim of the present study is to investigate which risk

---

and protective factors are responsible for recidivism of a residential placed population.

**Methods:** A group of male adolescents with psychiatric pathology and severe antisocial behaviour problems are placed in child and youth psychiatry by the juvenile judge (October 2004 – June 2010).

About the total group and their contexts we will describe the most important characteristics together with the risk and protective factors mentioned in the “Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY)\*.

From a part of the group we will describe the predictive risk and protective factors for recidivism.

Within the total group we compare subgroups: aggressive offenders / sexual abusers / offenders of multiple/various crimes.

The treatment program was predominantly cognitive behavioural.

**Results:** The results of the SAVRY concerning the total group (October 2004 – June 2010) placed in forensic child and youth psychiatry will be presented. The predictive results of the SAVRY concerning part of the group will be presented on recidivism.

**Conclusion:** We hypothesized that among the total group results will differ about risk factors (historical / social/contextual / individual) for the three subgroups. Offenders of multiple/various crimes will have less protective factors than the group of aggressive offenders. The group of aggressive offenders will have less protective factors than the group of sexual abusers.

We hypothesized that recidivists will have more risk factors and less protective factors.

Conclusions for further treatment will be drawn.

\*SAVRY by R. Borum, P. Bartel & A. Forth (Tampa, University of South Florida) and translated by H. P. B. Lodewijks, Th. A. H. Doreleijers, C. de Ruiters & H.F. de Wit-Grouls (Rentray, The Netherlands)

## O14

### **A new Dutch assessment instrument for juvenile delinquency**

*H.J.M. Spanjaard\*, C.E. van der Put, S.S. Polak, R.B. Bolt  
(Amsterdam, NL)*

[h.spanjaard@piresearch.nl](mailto:h.spanjaard@piresearch.nl)

The Dutch Assessment Instrument for Juvenile Delinquency (‘Landelijk Instrumentarium Jeugdstrafrecht’) is a structured risk assessment instrument. The instrument answers the question what is the risk of recidivism

---

and which factors are related to this risk. Besides the estimation of 'risk' and 'needs', the instrument also looks at

- the risk of harm towards others (the risk of violence);
- the risk of harm towards the person himself (suicide, self-harm);
- the signals of mental problems or disorders;
- responsivity: is the person motivated for changes, is it possible that he can profit from a specific intervention.

The instrument has different levels of assessment: a short version for all juveniles who get in contact with the police because of a misdemeanor or felony crime. In the short version the police collect criminal data to make a first estimation of the risk of recidivism. In case of medium or high risk and/or serious crimes, the youngster goes through a second step of assessment: information is collected about criminogenic factors by semi-structured interviewing the youngster, the parents and a representative of school. This leads to a 'dynamic risk profile'. Also this phase of assessment leads to scores on the risk of harm towards the person himself and signals of psychic problems or disorders. In case of risk on criminogenic factors and/or very serious crimes, the youngster also gets the third phase of assessment: a second semi-structured interview with the youngster and the parents. In this interview the picture of the protective and risk factors becomes more detailed, so that youngster, if appropriate, can be referred to more intensive interventions.

The LIJ not only tries to provide a reliable and valid assessment instrument for all the professionals involved, but also a framework in which different actors can continue assessment and setting goals with information already gathered by other assessors. The police assess the static factors like offense history, current crime, age, sex and cultural background; the officer from the Child Protection Board looks at dynamic criminogenic factors, protective factors, signals of psychosocial problems and mental disorders, and responsivity. Probation officers do the same when they conduct re-assessments.

## O15

### The significance of protective factors in the assessment of risk

*C Lennox\** (Manchester, UK)

charlotte.lennox@manchester.ac.uk

**Background:** Few studies have explored protective factors in the assessment of risk, despite acknowledgement that protective factors may play an important role.

---

**Aim:** To examine the significance of protective factors in assessment of risk using the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY).

**Hypotheses:** Protective factors will be associated with past behaviour and childhood psychopathology. Protective factors will predict desistance from reoffending.

**Method:** The SAVRY was completed on 135 male adolescents in custody in the UK. Data on previous offending and childhood psychopathology were collected. Participants were prospectively followed-up at 12 months using data from the Home Office Police National Computer (HOPNC).

**Results:** Participants with protective factors were older when first arrested, were less prolific offenders, and had fewer psychopathological problems. The number of protective factors present was significantly higher for participants who did not reoffend during the follow-up. The total number of SAVRY protective factors significantly predicted desistance at follow-up and resilient personality traits was the only significant individual protective factor.

**Conclusion:** Protective factors might buffer the effects of risk factors and a resilient personality may be crucial.

**Implications:** Protective factors should be an essential part of the risk management process and for interventions with high-risk adolescents to reduce reoffending.

## O16

### The impact of protective factors in desistance from violent reoffending in youth

*H.P.B. Lodewijks\* (Zutphen, NL)*

[lodewyks@xs4all.nl](mailto:lodewyks@xs4all.nl)

**Background:** Identifying and addressing the predictors of youth violence is important for prevention and intervention. Thus far, most of the studies on the prediction of serious (re)offending have focused on risk factors, defined as factors that increase the probability of later delinquency, rather than on protective factors associated with a decreased probability of later delinquency. Knowledge of risk and protective factors is important for a number of reasons. Firstly, inaccurate predictions of violent reoffending may be the consequence of a neglect of protective factors. Secondly, knowledge of protective factors associated with desistance is potentially important for the design of interventions that enhance protective factors

**Methods:** This study examined the possible impact of protective factors, assessed by means of the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in

---

Youth (SAVRY), on desistance from violent reoffending in adolescents. The relevance of protective factors to buffering the impact of risk factors was studied in four samples of adolescent offenders in different stages of the judicial process (N=135; N=111; N=66; N=47).

**Results:** ROC analysis revealed AUC's ranging from 0.71 to 0.84 for the protective total score. Using regression analyses, the addition of protective factors yielded a significant increment in the amount of variance explained by dynamic risk factors alone.

**Conclusion:** The results lend support to the hypothesis that protective factors buffer or mitigate the risk of violent reoffending. It seems safe to conclude that protective factors should be an inextricable part of all risk assessment instruments used with youth.

### *References*

1. Lodewijks, H.P.B., Ruiter, C. de, & Doreleijers, Th.A.H. (2010). The impact of protective factors in desistance from violent reoffending: A comparative study in three cohorts of adolescent offenders. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 25(3), 568-587.
2. Rennie, C., & Dolan, M.C. (2010). The significance of protective factors in the assessment of risk. *Criminal Behavior and Mental Health*, 20, 8-22.

---

# Psychopathy and delinquency

O17

## **Community violence and severe aggressive behaviour in adolescents: the impact of comorbid callous unemotional traits**

*A. Kröger\*, J. Feifel, F. Poustka, C. Stadler (Frankfurt, DE)*

Christina.Stadler@em.uni-frankfurt.de

**Background:** The aim of this study was to investigate the influence of community violence on severe aggressive behavior in dependence of callous unemotional traits and anxiety symptoms as possible mediating factors.

**Method:** The Social and Health Assessment (SAHA) survey was conducted among 136 students aged 11 to 18 years in order to assess exposure to community violence, callous unemotional traits and severe aggressive behavior. The German SAHA version comprises the 24 items Inventory of Callous-Unemotional traits (ICU) originally developed by Frick (2003). A logistic regression model was conducted: In a first step anxiety, CU traits and community violence were included in the logistic regression model, socio-economic risk, age and gender were included as control variables. In a second step, the interaction terms CU traits\*community violence and anxiety\*community violence were entered in the model and in a third step the tree-way interactions were considered.

**Results:** Results of this study show that community violence and gender carries a serious risk for severe aggressive behavior. In addition, students with high levels of CU traits are at special risk for the development of severe aggressive behavior when exposed to community violence. In contrast, comorbid anxiety symptoms seem to reduce the risk for aggressive behavior.

**Conclusion:** Current findings emphasize the impact of CU traits in aggravating the relationship between violence exposure and severe aggressive behavior in adolescents.