NEUROSCIENCE & PUBLIC POLICY SEMINAR

THE ATTENTION BOTTLENECK MODEL OF PSYCHOPATHY: IMPLICATIONS FOR SELF-REGULATION, VIOLENCE, NEURAL CORRELATES, AND COGNITIVE REMEDIATION

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4:00 PM
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Psychopathy is a grave form of psychopathology, involving serious disturbances in affect, behavioral inhibition, and interpersonal relationships. Psychopathic offenders are at high risk for pervasive conduct problems, aggression, and substance abuse. Research in my laboratory has specified an attention-related abnormality that acts like an attention bottleneck to limit the simultaneous processing of information in psychopathy. Reflecting the attention bottleneck, psychopathic individuals are oblivious to important contextual information, including salient affective and inhibitory cues, which reliably modulate the goal-directed behavior of others. The evidence supporting the attention bottleneck model has important implications for (a) psychopaths’ dysfunctional cognitive-emotion interactions, (b) the psychobiological processes underlying their deficits in self-regulation, (c) interpretation of the neuroimaging data on psychopathy, and (d) cognitive remediation of the psychopathic deficit.

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