



Psychopathy: Personality Disorder or Different Species

Professor Stephen J. Woods

Institute of Criminology Public Seminar Series

Thursday 13th May 2010, 5.30pm

Seminar Room B3, Institute of Criminology,
Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DA

Psychopathy is still a poorly understood concept. It is not specifically included in the D.S.M, but is nevertheless generally held to be an extreme form of Antisocial Personality Disorder. But how appropriate is the view that psychopathy is an extension of Antisocial Personality Disorder - particularly when one considers the growing evidence of a) differences in the neurobiology of a psychopath and that of the so-called "normal individual" and, b) children born to a parent with psychopathic traits are "predisposed" to exhibit similar behaviours even when raised in a stable environment by foster parents.

Joseph Koney, the infamous War Lord, has publicly boasted that is able to go on fighting forever because Africa has unlimited children that he can use as soldiers. He has also boasted that he is creating a new race.

Professor Woods will draw on the results of recent neurobiological studies and his experiences working in African war zones (child soldiers vs Koney's children) as well as with specialist police groups throughout the world to consider the possibility that psychopathy may be an evolutionary (devolutionary?) process.

This seminar is part of the IoC Public Seminar Series, and is open to all interested in attending.
If you wish to be added to the seminar mailing list, please contact: Joanne Garner, on:

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