

The Role of Psychopathic Personality Traits in Juror Decision Making: A Latent Profile Analysis

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Background

- Gender-based Violence is a significant problem globally, affecting 1 in 3 women during their lifetime [1].
- Jury decisions in the most serious sexual offences commonly result in NG verdicts [2].
- New research suggests the importance of attitudes in the decision making process [3]
- Yet, prior research has failed to reliably display the role of psychological traits in the DM process, often adopting weak methods and outdated analytical procedures [4].

Research Aim:

To examine the role of psychopathic personality traits upon juror decision making within an ecologically valid mock rape trial.

Methods

Study One

324 jury-eligible mixed student & community sample (F = 210, M = 114) aged 18 to 70 ($M = 24.86$) were randomly assigned to one of 27 mock AQA rape trials.

Study Two

100 jury-eligible community sample (F = 48, M = 45) aged 18 to 70 ($M = 45.50$) were randomly selected from the electoral register & assigned to one of 9 mock AQA rape trials.

Procedures & Measures

Within a highly ecologically valid experimental design, participants observed a rape trial re-enactment either in video (Study 1) or live presentation (study 2) format. In both studies mock jurors were presented with genuine rape trial evidence, acted out by professional lawyers and actors. P's completed the **Psychopathic Personality Traits Scale** (Boduszek et al, 2016) pre-trial exposure and subsequently made individual verdict decisions both pre and post group deliberation.



Data Analysis

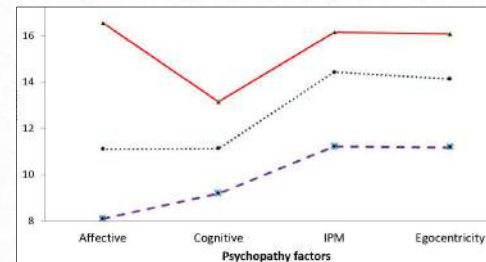
Latent Profiling Analysis (LPA)

- A two-stage process was applied.
- LPA was used to calculate the quantity of psychopathy classes and verify whether they varied qualitatively and/or quantitatively.
- Multinomial logistic regression was then used to assess the association between latent classes and individual juror decisions (guilty or not guilty) pre-and-post deliberation.
- Four alternative models were assessed separately for independent samples (1-class to 4-class) using RML

Results

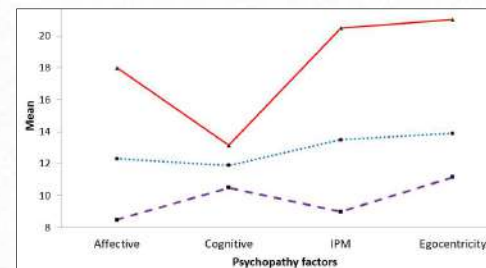
Study 1 – Videotaped Rape Trials

- LPA identified 3 groups (high, mod & low PPTS).
- Results displayed no statistically significant differences between **High PPTS jurors** (16%), **Moderate PPTS jurors** (38%), and **Low PPTS jurors** (46%) in terms of decision preferences either pre- or post-deliberation in mixed student-community sample (N = 324).

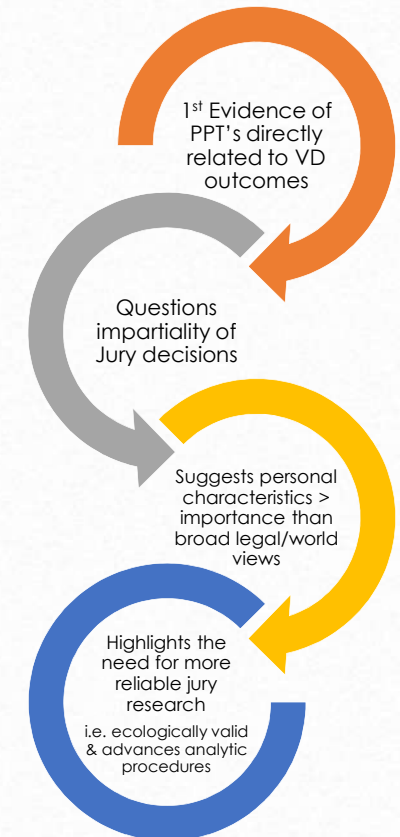


Study 2 – Live Rape Trials

- LPA identified 3 groups (high, mod & low PPTS).
- High PPTS jurors** (7%) were found to be significantly less likely to endorse guilty verdict preferences than **Low PPTS jurors** (38%) both pre-deliberation (OR = 0.06, 95% CI = 0.02/0.26, $p < .01$) and post-deliberation (OR = 0.08, 95% CI = 0.01/0.56, $p < .01$) in the more realistic and representative community participant sample (N = 100).



Implications / Applications



References

- [1] World Health Organization. (2013). Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence.
- [2] Crown Prosecution Service. (2017). Violence Against Women and Girls Crime Report 2016-17.
- [3] Willmott, D., Boduszek, D., Debowska, A. & Woodfield, R. (2018). Introduction and Validation of the Juror Decision Scale (JDS): An Empirical Investigation of the Story Model. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 57, 26-34
- [4] Lieberman, J. D., & Sales, B. D. (2007). *Ethical and Professional Issues in Scientific Jury Selection*. In J. Lieberman & B. Sales (Eds.), *Scientific Jury Selection* (pp. 187-200). Washington: American Psychological Association Press.