

## Introduction

- ❖ Association between psychopathy and violent behaviour is well documented (Blais et al., 2014; Gillespie et al., 2023)
- ❖ Attitudes toward violence are also associated with violent behaviour (Mills et al., 2004; Nunes et al., 2022)
- ❖ Fewer studies have examined the relationship between psychopathy and attitudes toward violence, but they have found that psychopathy and attitudes are correlated (Chung et al., 2022; Mills, 2000; Wiklund et al., 2014)
- ❖ When psychopathy factors were examined separately, Factor 2 (lifestyle and antisocial traits) correlated with attitudes toward violence ( $r = .37$ ), but Factor 1 (interpersonal and affective traits) did not ( $r = .02$ ; Mills, 2000)

## Purpose of Study

- ❖ To further explore the relationship between psychopathy and evaluative attitudes toward violence (i.e., how positively or negatively one views violence; Nunes et al., 2021)

### Hypothesis

- ❖ We expect that greater levels of psychopathic traits will be associated with more positive evaluative attitudes toward violence

## Method

### Participants

- ❖ 126 men recruited online from a Canadian university
- ❖ Mean age 19.4 ( $SD = 2.4$ )
- ❖ 54% White; 72.2% single; 97.6% primarily attracted to women

### Measures

- ❖ Evaluative attitudes toward violence
  - Evaluation of Violence Questionnaire (EVQ; Nunes et al., 2021)
- ❖ Psychopathy
  - Childhood and Adolescence Taxon Scale (CAT-SR; Harris et al., 1994)
  - Triarchic Psychopathy Measure (TriPM; Patrick, 2010)
    - 3-factors: Boldness, Meanness, Disinhibition
  - Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy Scale (LSRP; Levenson et al., 1995)
    - 2-factors: Primary, Secondary
    - 3-factors: Antisocial, Callous, Egocentricity (Brinkley et al., 2008)

## Results

### Correlations Between Psychopathy Measures and Evaluative Attitudes Toward Violence

Measure (psychopathy factor/facet)	EVQ	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
EVQ	–	2.04	0.60
CAT-SR	<b>.40***</b>	4.05	2.42
TriPM	<b>.49***</b>	62.36	18.16
Boldness (Fearless-Dominance)	<b>.13</b>	29.97	8.37
Meanness (Callous Aggression)	<b>.55***</b>	15.18	8.43
Disinhibition (Impulsivity)	<b>.39***</b>	17.21	8.10
LSRP	<b>.44***</b>	2.03	0.34
Primary (Interpersonal/Affective)	<b>.37***</b>	1.94	0.41
Secondary (Behavioural)	<b>.38***</b>	2.17	0.39
Egocentricity (Interpersonal)	<b>.35***</b>	1.93	0.47
Callous (Affective)	<b>.19*</b>	1.74	0.53
Antisocial (Behavioural)	<b>.41***</b>	2.26	0.52

Note. \*  $p < .05$  \*\*  $p < .01$  \*\*\*  $p < .001$

### Regression Analyses: Independent Associations of Psychopathy Measures' Subscales With Evaluative Attitudes Toward Violence

Measure (psychopathy factor/facet)	<i>b</i> ( <i>SE</i> )	95% CI	$r^2$	$r^2_{part}$
<b>Model 1: TriPM</b>			.30	
Boldness (Fearless-dominance)	-0.00 (0.01)	[-0.01, 0.01]		.00
Meanness (Callous Aggression)	<b>0.03***</b> (0.01)	[0.02, 0.05]		.15
Disinhibition (Impulsivity)	0.01 (0.01)	[-0.00, 0.02]		.01
<b>Model 2: LSRP 2-factor</b>			.20	
Primary (Interpersonal/Affective)	<b>0.38*</b> (0.13)	[0.12, 0.63]		.06
Secondary (Behavioural)	<b>0.43**</b> (0.14)	[0.17, 0.70]		.07
<b>Model 3: LSRP 3-factor</b>			.22	
Egocentricity (Interpersonal)	<b>0.25*</b> (0.11)	[0.02, 0.48]		.03
Callous (Affective)	0.10 (0.10)	[0.98, 0.33]		.01
Antisocial (Behavioural)	<b>0.38***</b> (0.10)	[0.19, 0.58]		.10

Note. \*  $p < .05$  \*\*  $p < .01$  \*\*\*  $p < .001$

## Discussion

- ❖ All psychopathy measures and subscales, except for the TriPM Boldness subscale, had significant positive associations with the EVQ ranging from small to large effect sizes
- ❖ TriPM Meanness and LSRP Primary, Secondary, Antisocial, and Egocentricity subscales were significantly independently associated with the EVQ
- ❖ These results suggest that more positive evaluative attitudes toward violence are associated with greater psychopathic traits — primarily the aggressive and antisocial components

## Limitations & Future Directions

- ❖ Conclusion regarding direction of influence between psychopathy and evaluative attitudes toward violence cannot be made due to cross-sectional non-experimental design
- ❖ Generalizability of our results is unclear, but similar correlations have been found with different measures and populations (Chung et al., 2022; Mills, 2000; Wiklund et al., 2014)
- ❖ Replication and extension with samples from correctional or general community and other measures of psychopathy (e.g., Psychopathy Checklist Revised)
- ❖ Further explore the role attitudes toward violence may play in the link between psychopathy and violence

## References & Contact



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