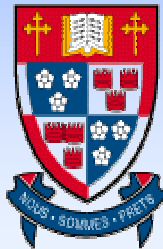


The Six-Month Stability of Psychopathic Traits in Adolescent Offenders

Zina Lee, Stephen D. Hart,
Marlene M. Moretti, & Kevin S. Douglas
Simon Fraser University





Adolescent Psychopathy Research

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- Evidence for the reliability and construct validity of psychopathic traits in adolescents
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- Delinquency and criminal versatility
 - Aggression and violence
 - Recidivism and treatment non-compliance
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Adolescent Psychopathy Controversy

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- There is considerable debate about psychopathy in adolescents
 - Uncertainty regarding the presence of fixed and maladaptive personality traits
 - Adolescence is a period of change and development
 - Certain traits may be normative during adolescence
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Stability of Psychopathic Traits

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- Assumption that psychopathy is stable
 - Research with adults suggests stability
 - Concern that stability is an artifact of the assessment procedure
 - No studies examining stability in adolescents
 - APSD stability (Frick, Kimonis, Dandreaux, & Farell, 2003)
 - PCL:YV test-retest (Skeem & Cauffman, 2003)



The Current Study

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- How can we assess the stability of psychopathy in adolescents?
 - How stable are the dimensions of psychopathy (interpersonal, affective, behavioral, antisocial) in adolescents across 6 months?



Participants

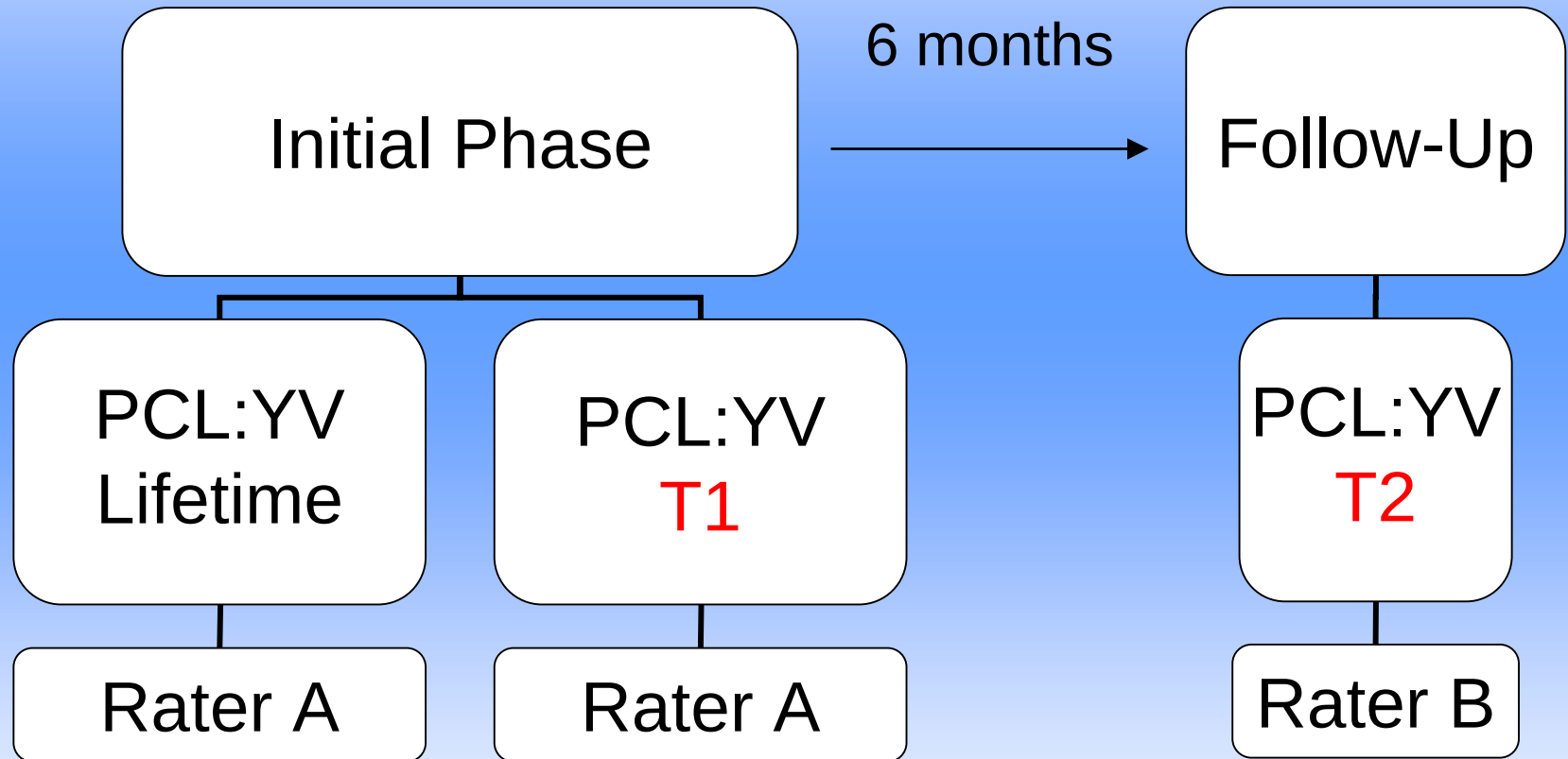
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- 117 male adolescent offenders at T1
 - 13 to 20 years ($M = 16.27$, $SD = 1.41$)
 - 50% Caucasian, 41% Aboriginal, and 9% Other
 - Secure (63%) and Open (37%) Custody
 - Sentenced (65%) or Remanded (35%)
 - Violent (41%) and Property (32%) offenses
 - Mean sentence was 172.95 ($SD = 196.79$) days



Participants

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- 65 male adolescent offenders at T2
 - 14 to 20 years ($M = 16.88$, $SD = 1.44$)
 - 45% Aboriginal, 43% Caucasian, and 12% Other
 - Juvenile Custody (68%), Probation (29%), and Adult Custody (3%)
 - Sentenced (36%), Remanded (36%), Probation (25%), and Bail (3%)
 - Violent (53%) and Property (19%) offenses
 - Mean sentence was 394.09 ($SD = 285.91$) days
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Method





Method

- Self-report APSD

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- Dimensions of narcissism, callous-unemotional, and impulsivity
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- Completed by participants at the end of their interview at T1 and T2
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- PCL:YV raters blind to participants' self-report APSD scores
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PCL:YV Interrater Reliability (ICC_1)



	Lifetime	T1
Total	.94	.86
Interpersonal	.80	.72
Affective	.70	.53
Behavioral	.73	.76
Antisocial	.96	.91



Association Between PCL:YV Lifetime & T1 Ratings



	Pearson <i>r</i>
Total	.80**
Interpersonal	.85**
Affective	.79**
Behavioral	.75**
Antisocial	.52**



Internal Consistency (α) of PCL:YV



	Lifetime	T1	T2
Total	.86	.85	.89
Interpersonal	.71	.73	.60
Affective	.64	.58	.71
Behavioral	.72	.71	.82
Antisocial	.65	.58	.80





PCL:YV Mean Inter-Item Correlations



	Lifetime	T1	T2
Total	.25	.22	.29
Interpersonal	.37	.40	.27
Affective	.32	.25	.38
Behavioral	.36	.34	.47
Antisocial	.28	.23	.45





Results – Stability (ICC_1)



	PCL:YV	APSD
Total	.50	.60
Interpersonal	.53	.46
Affective	.24	.54
Behavioral	.49	.57
Antisocial	.34	N/A



Discussion

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- Preliminary evidence for the stability of psychopathy in adolescent offenders
 - Differences when examine the symptom clusters and between measures
 - Stability estimates of the PCL:YV affective and antisocial dimensions were lower
 - Moderate stability of the APSD affective dimension



Conclusion

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- Some dimensions of psychopathy (interpersonal and behavioral) show stability in adolescents
 - Unclear what is considered stable
 - Question whether a deficit in affect is fully developed in adolescents
 - Implications of instability
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Future Directions

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- Structural equation modeling to obtain more accurate stability estimates
 - Stability at longer intervals
 - Stability across key developmental periods
 - Factors that influence stability

Acknowledgements

- CIHR Institute of Gender and Health (IGH) in partnership with the CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health (IHDCYH) through a New Emerging Team Grant awarded to Dr. Marlene M. Moretti (CIHR #54020)
- Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) British Columbia
- Data Collection Team (Vancouver Site): Jessie Klaver, Stephanie Penney, Rosalind Catchpole, Kim DaSilva, Maya Peled, Ingrid Obsuth, & Andree Steiger
- Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)

