

## Special Issue on Neurodevelopmental Risk Factors for Criminality

# CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite authors to contribute original research articles and reviews that focus on the relationship between neurodevelopmental disorders and criminality. The adverse impact of crime is a key societal problem, and many individuals in the criminal justice system are affected by mental health issues. The aim of this special issue is to focus on risk factors (at different levels of analysis), which predict, promote, or otherwise lead to behaviours classified as “punishable” by society. In particular, we invite papers focussed on (1) genetic and environmental risk factors for crime and how these are associated with brain structure and function and (2) how brain structure and function predict problematic thought processes (i.e., criminogenic cognitions) and behaviours relating to crime.

Various brain networks have been implicated with externalized disorders. For example, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder is associated with significantly smaller (right) prefrontal cortex, basal ganglia, and cerebellum, as well as reduced connectivity among these brain regions. In addition to structural/functional differences, research also suggests dysregulation of the dopamine and norepinephrine systems, impacting on attention and inhibition networks, as well as emotional irritability.

We see that this special issue is providing a key bridge between clinical psychologists and cognitive neuroscientists on one hand, with people working on the applied (forensic) side of mental health on the other. A greater understanding of the underlying risk factors and neurological implications of externalizing disorders will in the long run support the validity of diagnostic criteria and provide a greater basis of knowledge feeding into treatments and interventions for those engaging in criminal behaviour.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Neurodevelopmental externalizing disorders: ADHD, conduct disorder, oppositional-defiant disorder, foetal alcohol spectrum disorder, antisocial personality disorder, and childhood traumatic brain injury
- ▶ Biological signatures of criminal behaviour, criminogenic cognitions, and antisocial and delinquent behaviour
- ▶ Environmental risk factors for externalizing disorders (e.g., low birth weight, maternal smoking, and neurotoxic heavy metals)
- ▶ Genetic risk factors for neurodevelopmental disorders (e.g., familial and twin studies and the presence of catechol O-methyltransferase)
- ▶ Functional neuroimaging of neural correlates of criminal behaviour and/or externalizing disorders
- ▶ Biomarkers for comorbidity of externalizing disorders

Authors can submit their manuscripts through the Manuscript Tracking System at <http://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/bn/nrfc/>.

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### First Round of Reviews

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