Antisocial personality disorder

- Pervasive pattern of disregard for and violation of the rights of others occurring since age 15
- As indicated by 3 or more of:
  - Failure to conform to social norms with respect to lawful behavior
  - Deceitfulness
  - Impulsivity or failure to plan ahead
  - Irritability and aggressiveness
  - Reckless disregard for safety of self or others
  - Consistent irresponsibility
  - Lack of remorse

Impulse control

- Source of emotional impulses?
  - Amygdala (limbic system)
- Control over emotional impulses?
  - Frontal lobes
- What could cause impulsive behavior?
  - Strong impulses
  - Weak control
  - Both combined

Testing impulse control

- Stroop test
- “Knock” test
- Movement sequences:
  - Alternate palm and fist
  - Palm, fist, side
- Correct performance involves inhibiting incorrect thoughts or responses

Frontal lobes vs. amygdala

- Study of 41 serial killers
  (Raine, Monson, et al., 1998)
  - Groups: good home vs. abusive home
  - Which group showed more impaired frontal functioning?
    - Good home
    - No abuse to elevate emotional impulses
    - Frontal lobes dysfunctional due to genetics?
Behavior may have been more conclusive than brain scans

Based on behavioral tests: The tests that reflect frontal function are defective. Seriously defective.

On interpreting brain scans: It's an interpretation. It's not an exact science, it's more of an art.

On changes in how he's interpreted brain scans: Now that I've read 7,000 I read them completely differently.