Announcements

• Class on Thursday:
  – Turn in final papers
  – Exam review
• Additional office hours:
  – Wednesday 12/4: 11am – 2pm
  – Friday 12/6: noon – 2pm
  – Monday 12/9: noon – 3pm

Outline

• What is an “abnormal” behavior or mental process?
• Examine the nature and treatment of three quite different mental disorders:
  – Schizophrenia
  – Depression
  – Anti-social personality disorder

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

Anti-social personality disorder

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Frontal lobes vs. amygdala

- Study of 41 serial killers (Raine, Stoddard, 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 vs. brain scans: Which are better evidence?

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.