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### Annotated Bibliography

#### **How does the collective presence of different etiological factors manifest into the presentation of both conduct and oppositional defiant antisocial disorders in the behavior of youth?**

Ironically, there is something so fascinating about criminals and psychopaths. Their crimes and mannerism can differ so greatly from normal societal behavior. At other times, however, these criminals seem completely normal. To the outside world, they are just as average as the next person. The question posed above is of interest to me because criminals are prone to having antisocial behavior disorders, the most common being conduct disorder and oppositional defiant disorder. These behaviors can appear in youth or adolescence. I do not believe that any individual is inherently bad or evil; for this reason, it is important to examine different factors that contribute to youth displaying antisocial behavior. I expect the research to show a variety of risk factors that contribute to the onset of criminal behavior. Amongst these factors I would say are genetics and the surrounding environment. Genetic predispositions to violence can prompt individuals to act in certain ways. Additionally, a harsh parenting style or impoverished low-income surrounding can aggravate conditions like conduct disorder (CD) or oppositional defiant disorder (ODD). Symptoms of each disorder are as follow:

- Conduct Disorder (CD): aggressive behavior, cruelty to both humans and animals, destructive and deceitful behaviors, difficulty following rules and respecting others.

- Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD): anger, irritability, active defiance, issues with authority.

Barnes, J. C., & Jacobs, B. A. (2013). Genetic risk for violent behavior and environmental exposure to disadvantage and violent crime: The case for gene–environment interaction. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 28*(1), 92-120.

- This study examined the ways in which one’s surrounding environment affects their behavior later on in life. The paper touches upon the plasticity theory, which states that individuals with risk alleles are easily influenced by their environment, whether it is for better or for worse. Someone, especially a teenager or adolescent, with genetic risk for violence will be more likely to engage in antisocial behavior when placed in a violent environment. Thus, using this research it is clear that youth in low-income or impoverished areas will partake in violence when coming into direct contact with such. Professor J. C. Barnes is an American criminologist who studies the biosocial aspects of criminology. I believe this source to be credible and useful in explaining and showing that violent surroundings can breed violence. Such a factor can present itself as CD or ODD. These antisocial disorders are characterized by aggressiveness and cruelty.
- “Genetic risk had a greater influence on violent behavior when the individual was also exposed to neighborhood disadvantage or when the individual was exposed to higher violent crime rates.”

Gardener, A. M., Waller, R., Shaw, D. S., Forbes, E. E., Hariri, A. R., & Hyde, L. W. (2017).

The long reach of early adversity: Parenting, stress, and neural pathways to antisocial

behavior in adulthood. *Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging*, 2(7), 582-590.

- This study examines the effects of parenting on the development of the brain in youths. Parents who are harsh and abusive in their approach with their children will cause the underdevelopment of the amygdala, the part of the brain that is responsible for emotion. The amygdala is sensitive to stress, and stress from cold parental responses will lead it to not maturing fully. This leads to antisocial behaviors because the youth will not respond to fear. This lack of response to fear will make it unlikely for the adolescent or child to stop their aggressiveness. This source accounts for the biological aspect of the cause of antisocial disorders.
- “Harsher parenting and greater neighborhood deprivation in toddlerhood predicted clinically-significant symptoms of AB via less amygdala reactivity to fearful facial expressions and this pathway was moderated by genetic variation in *CRHR1*.”

Glass, Ira, host. “Bad Baby.” *This American Life*, WBEZ Chicago, 28 March. 2014.

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/521/bad-baby>

- This podcast episode, hosted by American radio personality Ira Glass, interviews a mother whose children exhibit onset antisocial behavior. These children seem to have psychopathic tendencies and do not feel remorseful for their actions. The episode of this podcast details experiences that these mothers have with the kids. One mother, named Cheryl, discusses her son’s actions and the ways in which he is aggressive and unremorseful to both her and his siblings. This boy tries to drown his younger brother and he purposely breaks his mother’s nose. While the

podcast is not rich in qualitative data, like the studies, it exemplifies both disorders that my question examines.

- “One fifth of highly psychopathic teenagers continued to be highly psychopathic once they grew into adulthood.”
- “There's a relatively new classification for children who don't have remorse and don't feel empathy for others. It's CU, short for callous unemotional traits.”

The research above shows that etiological factors can explain antisocial disorders in youths. These disorders then develop as the individuals grow older. It is clear that people and external environments can make individuals act on aggressive tendencies they are already predisposed to. The sources were especially helpful, but slightly difficult to read. The medical jargon used made it so that I had to review the material multiple times to be sure of the conclusions the studies had come to. I agree with these texts because I think that people are born as clean slates. They are not born “bad.” Instead, life, genetics, and just surroundings in general.