

be the modern diagnosis' – if it were a modern diagnosis, presumably.

The relationship between autism and psychopathy is complex and probably heterogeneous. A synthesis of the current research on callous unemotional traits and autism, on lack of empathy or inability to mentalise as common psychobiological characteristics, or on shared neural networks would interest many clinicians, especially if it offered the prospect of better therapeutic interventions for offenders with either or both disorders. But the existence of criminal autistic psychopathy as a diagnosis increasingly feels like a matter of faith, as Fitzgerald urges us just

to take his word for it. It is difficult to accept such a reductionist and pejorative model of behaviour and abandon individual formulations of offending, which can encompass the impact of autism on perception, emotion, learning and cognition for the whole complex individual in particular, complex situations.

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