

*Psychology 110*  
*Dr. Gordon*

*Module #47*

*Psychological Disorders (Stress induced?)*  
*(Dissociative/Personality Disorders*

## *A. Dissociative Disorders*

- *1. Introduction to dissociative disorders*
- *2. Dissociative amnesia*
- *3. Dissociative fugue*
- *4. Dissociative identity disorder (DID) or Multiple Personality Disorder*

# *1. Introduction to Dissociative Disorders?*

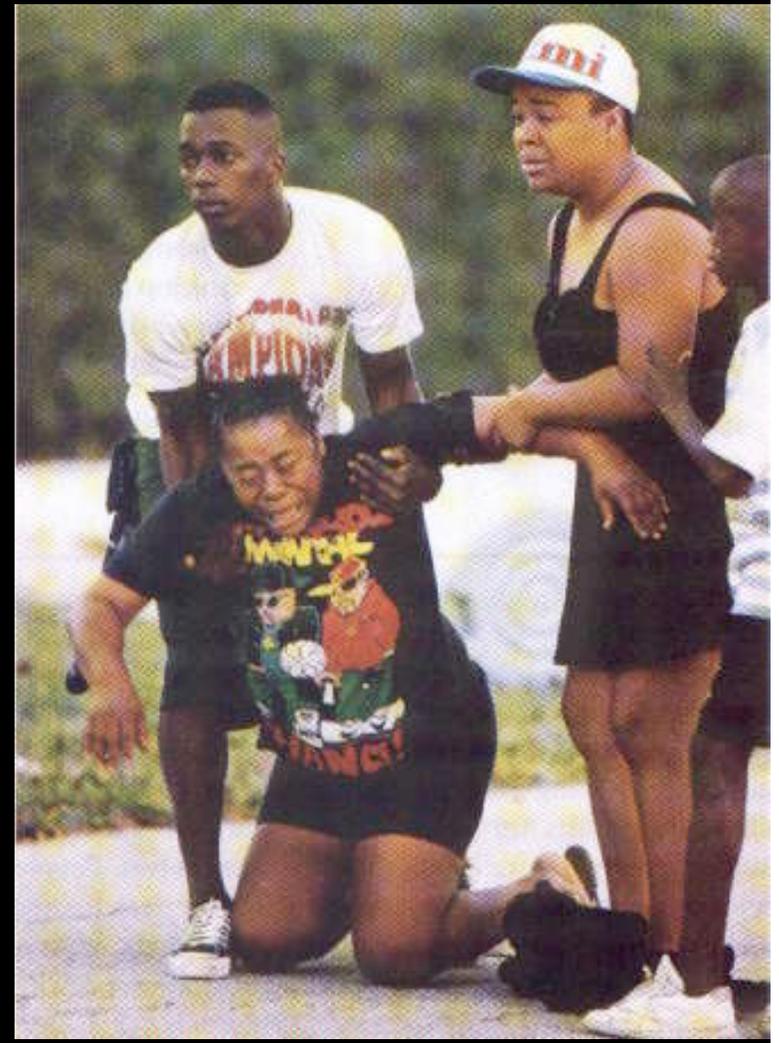
- All of us have some idea of who we are. We have a sense of continuity about ourselves. We know that we are the same person today as we were yesterday and can expect to be the same tomorrow. This is about our sense of identity. To Erikson, the identity was a dynamic self structure that contained our expectations, values, interests, and goals. He proposed that our identities were the “windows” to reality. But, what happens when the reality is too stressful for our identities, that is, when self is traumatized?*



*Has this child been traumatized?*

## *1. Introduction to Dissociative Disorders?*

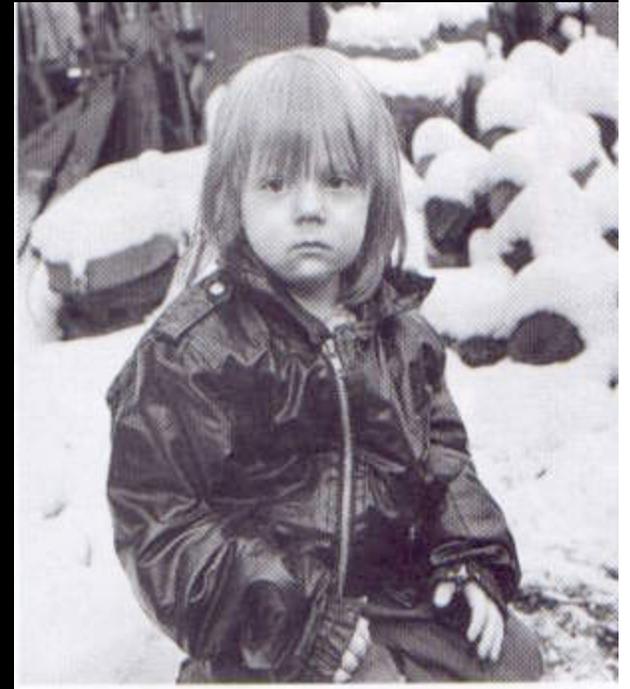
- *Psychologists argue that memory as a cognitive process can help persons achieve a sense of wholeness and identity. Memory connects our past, present, and future. At times, traumatic events can affect our memories. For example, persons can experience head trauma or injury that consequently leads to memory loss. However, memory loss can also be induced by psychological and not organic factors.*



*Does trauma lead to memory loss?*

## *1. Introduction to Dissociative Disorder?*

- In these cases, when memory loss is so severe that it disrupts our sense of self, clinicians call this condition a “dissociative disorder. There are basically three types of dissociative disorders. These include a psychogenic amnesia, psychogenic fugue, and dissociative identity disorder (DID). Like PTSD, most but not all dissociative disorders have their roots in childhood trauma. Dissociation can also occur in adulthood. Lacking coping skills, the person who dissociates usually experiences memory loss and/or identity change as a means of dealing with trauma.*



*This child can potentially repress her trauma and dissociate in her adult years.*

## 2. Dissociative Amnesia

- *Let's begin our discussion with dissociative amnesia. The slide below indicates the criteria for a psychogenic amnesia. The DSM-IV defines dissociative amnesia as a condition "marked by an inability to recall important personal events and information."*

### DSM-IV Criteria

#### Dissociative Amnesia

- A. The predominant disturbance is one or more episodes of inability to recall important personal information, usually of a traumatic or stressful nature, that is too extensive to be explained by ordinary forgetfulness.
- B. The disturbance does not occur exclusively during the course of Dissociative Identity Disorder, Dissociative Fugue, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Acute Stress Disorder, or Somatization Disorder and is not due to the direct physiological effects of a substance (e.g., a drug of abuse, a medication) or a neurological or other general medical condition (e.g., Amnestic Disorder Due to Head Trauma).
- C. The symptoms cause clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.

SOURCE: APA, DSM-IV, 1994.

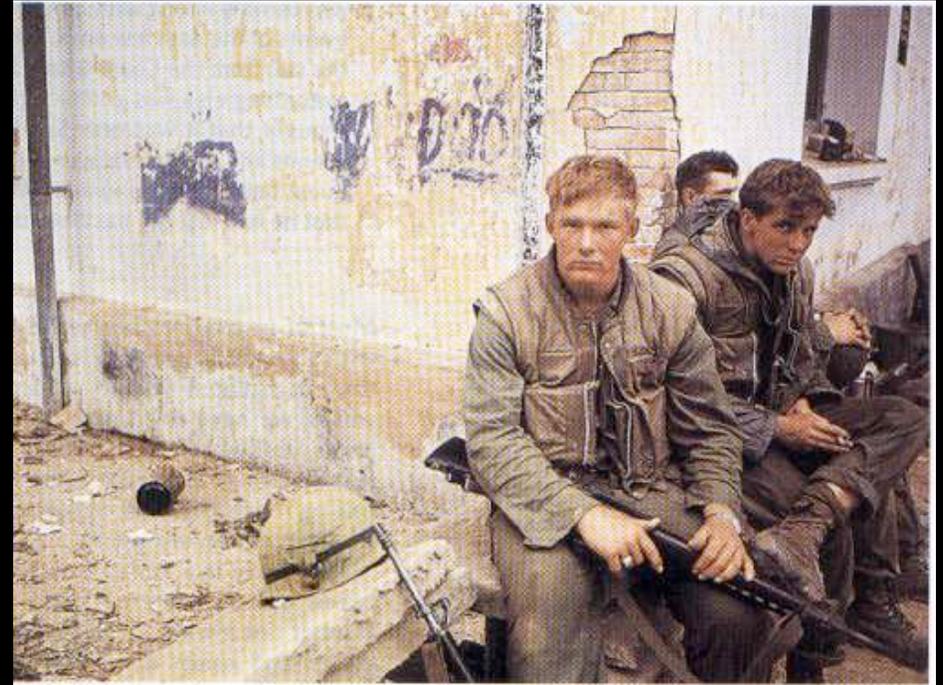
## 2. *Dissociative amnesia*

- *Dissociative amnesia is a sudden loss of memory for important personal information that is typically induced by severe trauma or stress. Dissociative amnesia has been portrayed in cinema and soap operas. In the Hitchcock film, “spellbound,” Gregory Peck played a man with dissociative amnesia.*



## *2. Dissociative amnesia*

- All dissociative amnesias have impaired episodic memory. Their semantic and procedure memories are still intact. According to clinical researchers, approximately five percent of psychological disorders stemming from military combat are dissociative amnesias. Furthermore, dissociative amnesias have a strong relationship with childhood sexual abuse.*



*Dissociative amnesias protect soldiers from the brutality of combat?*

### *3. Dissociative fugue*

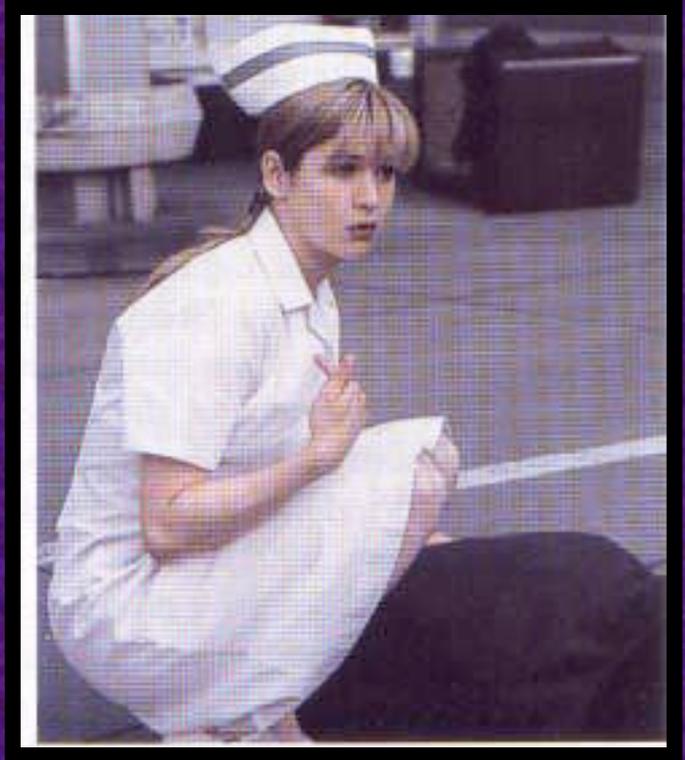
- Dissociative fugue is like a dissociative amnesia but the person also loses a sense of personal identity. These persons are often reported as missing persons. The slide to the right illustrates a woman who the legal authorities called “Mary Doe.” She was found in a park in Florida, emaciated, incoherent, and near death. She had lost the memory of her name, her past and the ability to read and write.*



*Who I'm I?*

### *3. Dissociative fugue*

- Dissociative fugue involves memory loss of one's previous identity and past life. In addition, the afflicted "travels to a new location..." The term "Fugue" comes from the Latin derivation meaning "to flee." In the film, Nurse Betty (to the right), Rene Zellweger leaves her former identity of a diner waitress in a small Kansas town and travels to Los Angeles to assume a new identity as a soap opera nurse. Her travel and new identity were precipitated by trauma (witnessed a murder).*



*Nurse Betty*

### *3. Dissociative fugue*

- Coming out of a fugue is usually abrupt. Persons typically find themselves in the new location surrounded by people or a life one is not familiar. In some rare cases, persons commit illegal acts during the fugue state and must face the consequences of their actions.*



*A young woman afflicted with a “fugue”*

## 4. Dissociative Identity Disorder

- *Dissociative identity disorder (DID) is a rare and controversial condition. It is considered one of the more bizarre psychological disorders. The DSM-IV diagnostic criteria are outlined below. Dissociative identity disorder was once called multiple personality disorder. Each personality has its own memories, name, and physical mannerisms. It is often confused with schizophrenia but is quite different to say the least.*

### DSM-IV Criteria

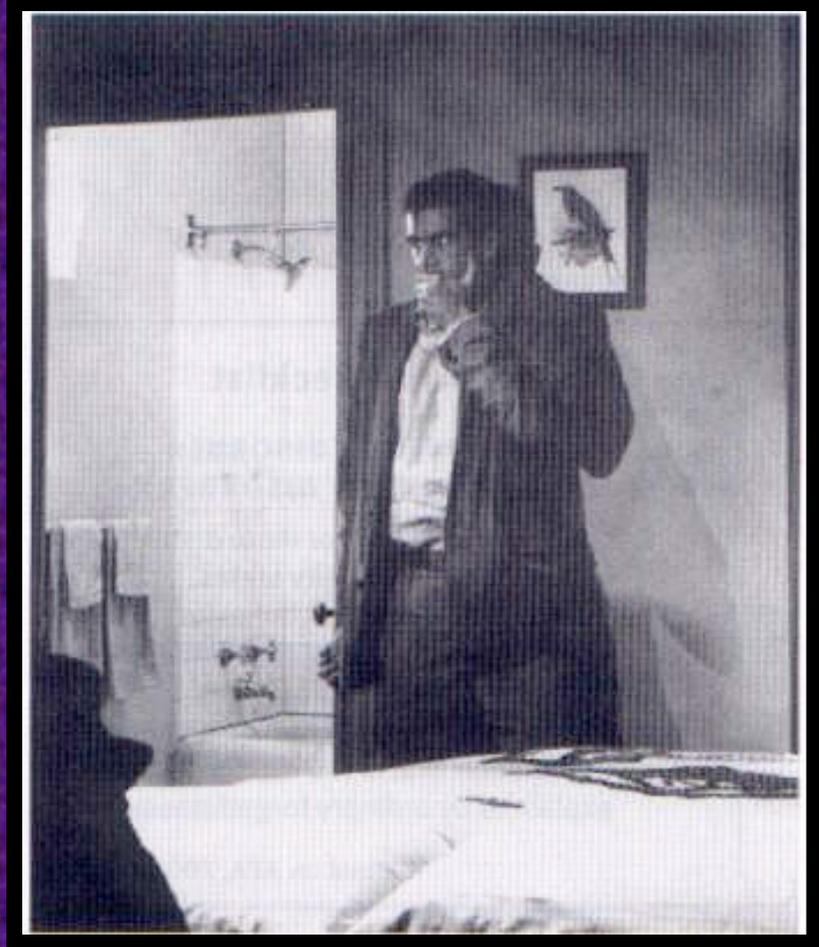
#### Dissociative Identity Disorder (formerly Multiple Personality Disorder)

- A. The presence of two or more distinct identities or personality states (each with its own relatively enduring pattern of perceiving, relating to, and thinking about the environment and self).
- B. At least two of these identities or personality states recurrently take control of the person's behavior.
- C. Inability to recall important personal information that is too extensive to be explained by ordinary forgetfulness.
- D. The disturbance is not due to the direct physiological effects of a substance (e.g., blackouts or chaotic behavior during Alcohol Intoxication) or a general medical condition (e.g., complex partial seizures). (*Note:* In children, the symptoms are not attributable to imaginary playmates or other fantasy play.)

SOURCE: APA, DSM-IV, 1994.

## *4. Dissociative Identity Disorder*

- The criteria indicates that one develops two or more distinct personalities. Each personality has its own set of memories, thoughts, and emotions. As a part of the overall personality dynamics, one diagnosed with DID has subordinate or alternative personalities but usually has a primary personality that appears most of the time.*



*Norman Bates in the film "Psycho" was diagnosed with DID.*

## *4. Dissociative Identity Disorder*

- A closer examination of “DID” suggests that personalities often reveal themselves as opposites. Interestingly, personalities present themselves as asymmetries in their communication patterns. That is, some personalities are unaware of some personalities communicating with others. Typically subordinate personalities are aware of what the dominant or primary personality is doing, but not vice versa.*



*John Cusack and Amanda Peet are 2 of the 10 Personalities in the film “Identity.”*

## 4. *Dissociative Identity Disorder*

- In your text, Myers discusses the controversy of this diagnosis. Critics arguing for a genuine diagnosis point to changes in brain and muscular activity associated with different personalities. Myers cites the work of Miller and others who found changes in visual acuity and eye-muscle balance when patients changed from personality to another. Many DID case also share a traumatic-sadistic childhood.*

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**“Would it be possible to speak with the personality that pays the bills?”**

*Does the humor in the cartoon reflect the controversy of DID?*

## *4. Dissociative Identity Disorder*

- DID skeptics say the diagnosis is a late 20th century invention. The skepticism stems from the dramatic increase in the number of cases diagnosed since 1970 from 2 per decade to 20,000 in the 1980's. Furthermore, the average number of personalities jumped from 3 to 12 per case. DID is also rare to nonexistent in other cultures. Some clinical researchers propose that it is a product of hypnosis. Patients under hypnosis are in a heightened state of suggestibility.*



*Chris Sizemore (above) may have been responsible for the increase in DID diagnoses. She was Eve in the "Three Faces of Eve."*

## 4. *Dissociative Identity Disorder*

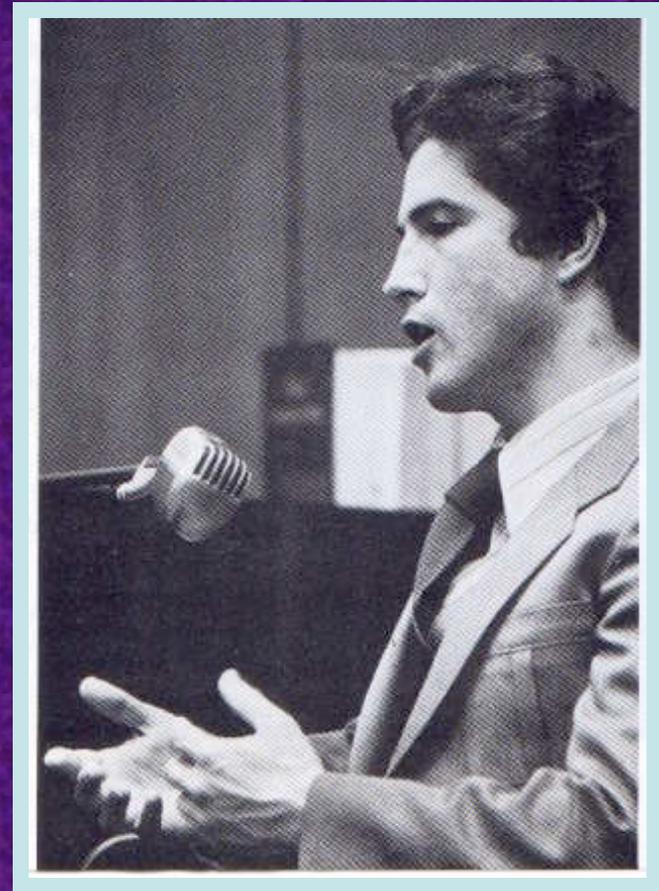
- The slide to the right illustrates “Eve” in 4 of her 22 personalities. Some clinical researchers claim that DID is a manifestation of PTSD or a natural response to a traumatic sadistic childhood (checkout some of Myers case examples). DID may really be a very intense and desperate effort to escape the trauma of the past. However, children across other cultures (Nazi concentration camps) have endured sadistic trauma and have not developed DID.*



*Chris Sizemore*

## *4. Dissociative Identity Disorder*

- To the right, Ken Bianchi, the hillside strangler, attempted an insanity defense for his serial killings. What defense did Bianchi's attorneys use? They employed the DID defense of course! However, the court decided that Bianchi had merely tried to fake his multiple personality. Cases like this one are likely the result of the media blitz surrounding the DID diagnosis. Attorneys still employ this defense but without much success.*



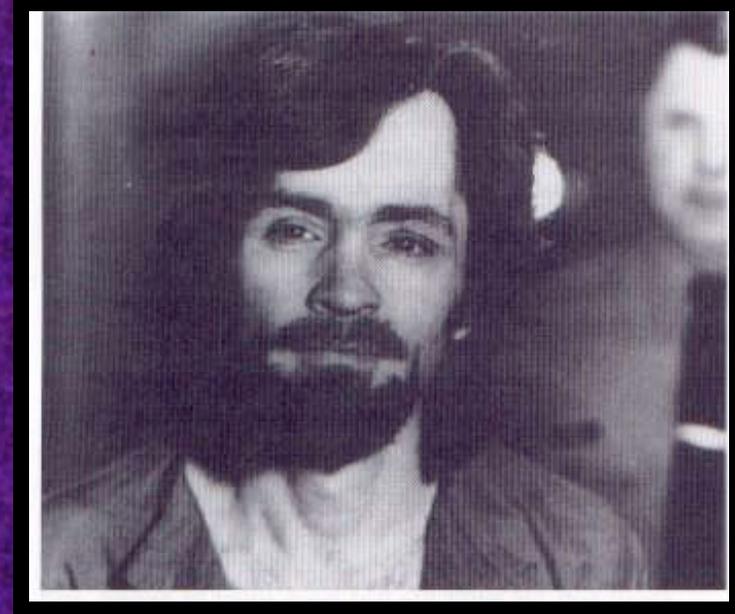
*Ken Bianchi*

## *B. Personality Disorders*

- *1. Introduction to personality disorders*
- *2. Odd/Exocentric cluster*
- *3. Dramatic/Impulsive cluster*
- *4. Anxious/Avoidant cluster*

# *1. Introduction to personality disorders*

- Personality disorders are disorders that are marked by extreme, inflexible personality traits that cause subjective distress or impaired social and occupational functioning. Personality disorders are about individuals who have serious trait deficits that cause distress for them and the people around them. Personality disorders fall under three major classifications: 1) anxious and fearful, 2) odd and eccentric, and 3) dramatic impulsive.*



*Charles Manson was diagnosed with the Antisocial Personality Disorder had serious trait deficits like the lack of empathy!*

# I INTRODUCTION

Cluster	Disorder	Description	% Male
Anxious/fearful	Avoidant personality disorder	Excessively sensitive to potential rejection, humiliation, or shame; socially withdrawn in spite of desire for acceptance from others	50
	Dependent personality disorder	Excessively lacking in self-reliance and self-esteem; passively allowing others to make all decisions; constantly subordinating own needs to others' needs	31
	Obsessive-compulsive personality disorder	Preoccupied with organization, rules, schedules, lists, trivial details; extremely conventional, serious, and formal; unable to express warm emotions	50
Odd/eccentric	Schizoid personality disorder	Defective in capacity for forming social relationships; showing absence of warm, tender feelings for others	78
	Schizotypal personality disorder	Showing social deficits and oddities of thinking, perception, and communication that resemble schizophrenia	55
	Paranoid personality disorder	Showing pervasive and unwarranted suspiciousness and mistrust of people; overly sensitive; prone to jealousy	67
Dramatic/impulsive	Histrionic personality disorder	Overly dramatic; tending to exaggerated expressions of emotion; egocentric, seeking attention	15
	Narcissistic personality disorder	Grandiosely self-important; preoccupied with success fantasies; expecting special treatment; lacking interpersonal empathy	70
	Borderline personality disorder	Unstable in self-image, mood, and interpersonal relationships; impulsive and unpredictable	38
	Antisocial personality disorder	Chronically violating the rights of others; failing to accept social norms, to form attachments to others, or to sustain consistent work behavior; exploitive and reckless	82

## *2. Personality disorders: Anxious and fearful*

- Three types of personality disorders fall under this category. They are dependent, avoidant, and obsessive-compulsive personality disorder. Let's start with the dependent personality disorder. This "dependent" feels helpless and inadequate to deal with the world. Furthermore, they must find strong others to provide protection in order to cope. The dependent often "smothers," clings to, and relies on others to make one's decisions.*



*Bob Wiley (Bill Murray) was a "Dependent."*

## *2. Personality disorders: Anxious and fearful*

- The avoidant personality disorder refers to one who is extremely uncomfortable in social situations. They are overly sensitive to negative feedback. The “Avoidant” has a tremendous fear of being rejected. Some clinicians believe that the “Avoidant” is similar to the social phobic. The origins of this disorder may derive from strong criticisms from significant others. As a result, one comes to believe that others’ negative evaluations are justified.*



*From the film “Rocky,” Talle Shire’s character, Adrian, displays strong “Avoidant” traits until Rocky (right) helps her overcome her disorder.*

## *2. Personality disorders: Anxious and fearful*

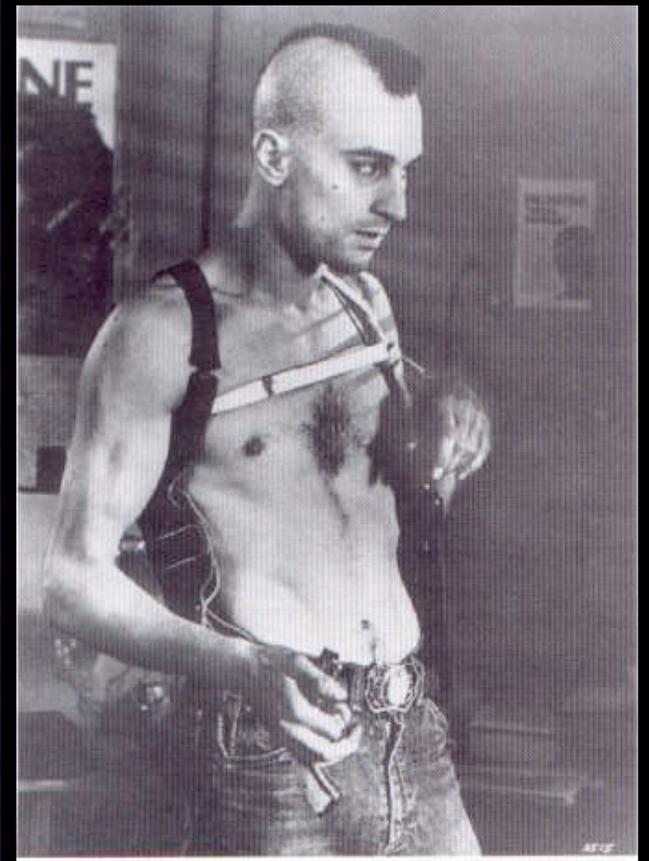
- The obsessive-compulsive personality disorder is a condition in which one is preoccupied with order, perfection, and efficiency. The OCPD is considered a “control freak.” They work off detailed lists. They demand excessive closure and feel a need to do everything right! The OCPD set unreasonably high standards for themselves and others. They tend to be overly rigid.*



*Howard Hughes: A famous OCPD*

### *3. Personality disorders: Odd and eccentric*

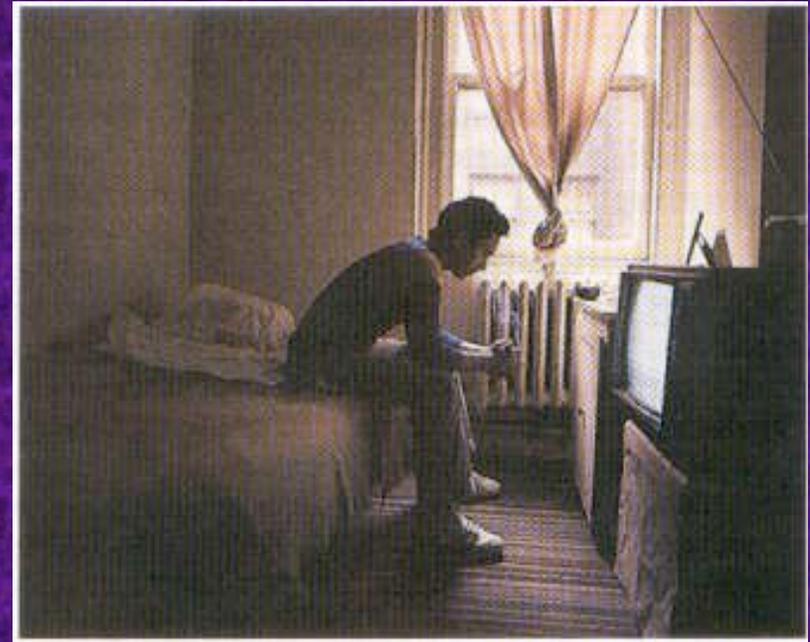
- Three types of personality disorders fall under this classification and schizoid, schizotypal, and paranoid. In the film clip, “taxi driver” starring Robert DiNero, one could speculate that his character has schizotypal traits. According to clinical researchers, the schizotypal personality disorder is described as having severe deficits in social skills. They tend to seek social isolation (Cramer on Seinfeld is an exception). They have major cognitive and perceptual distortions (almost all schizophrenics like such ideas of reference or how unrelated events pertain to them in some way.)*



*Robert DiNero  
As “Travis Bickle”*

### *3. Personality disorders: Odd and eccentric*

- The schizoid personality disorder is one in which individuals are detached from social relationships (e.g., the hermit). Schizoids are often alone and are unaffected by social feedback such as criticism or praise. The schizoid is cognitively simple. They lack intellectual depth. They could easily be found in a job that requires minimal social contact.*



*The Schizoid*

### *3. Personality disorders: Odd and eccentric*

- The paranoid personality disorder is considered one of the most dangerous of conditions. They show pervasive distrust for others. They are highly suspicious. They are highly watchful, cautious, and quick to react. They perceive threat that is not there. They are critical of weakness and fault in others. It is therefore not surprising that they do not have close relationships.*



*Senator Joe McCarthy was the classic paranoid. His paranoid PD was evident in the senate hearings regarding the 1950's Red Scare*

## *4. Personality disorders: Dramatic and impulsive*

- *Four types of personality disorders fall under this classification of dramatic and impulsive. These include borderline, histrionic, narcissistic, and antisocial personality disorders. What do all these disorders have in common? First, they all have the potential to act out when encountering stress. Second, their behavioral responses tend to be exaggerated in their emotional reactions to stress. Lastly, these personality disorders are frequently portrayed in cinema.*



*Glenn Close (above) portrays  
A borderline personality  
disorder in the film “Fatal  
Attraction.”*

## *4. Personality disorders: Dramatic and impulsive*

- The borderline personality is best describes as a fast car out of control. The “Borderline” experiences sudden shifts in mood, an unstable self image, impulsivity (e.g., alcohol and drug abuse), and exaggerated fear of being alone and/or abandonment. The majority of borderlines who are diagnosed are women. Recently, clinical researchers have noted that some borderlines have sexually abusive histories. Lastly, the borderline’s emotional instability is associated with dysfunctional limbic activity.*



*Glenn Close (above) portrays  
A borderline personality  
disorder in the film “Fatal  
Attraction.”*

## *4. Personality disorders: Dramatic and impulsive*

- A person with a narcissistic personality disorder is characterized as one who frequently displays a pervasive pattern of grandiosity, shows a strong need for admiration, and lacks empathy. A “Narcissist” is typically preoccupied by fantasies of unlimited success and power. They like to surround themselves with other successful people and show contempt for those they perceive as inferior. Clearly, General George Patton had strong narcissistic traits. Let’s watch a film clip from “Patton.”*



*Patton (above) with Allied Commander, Dwight Eisenhower. Narcissists like to surround themselves with other superior people.*

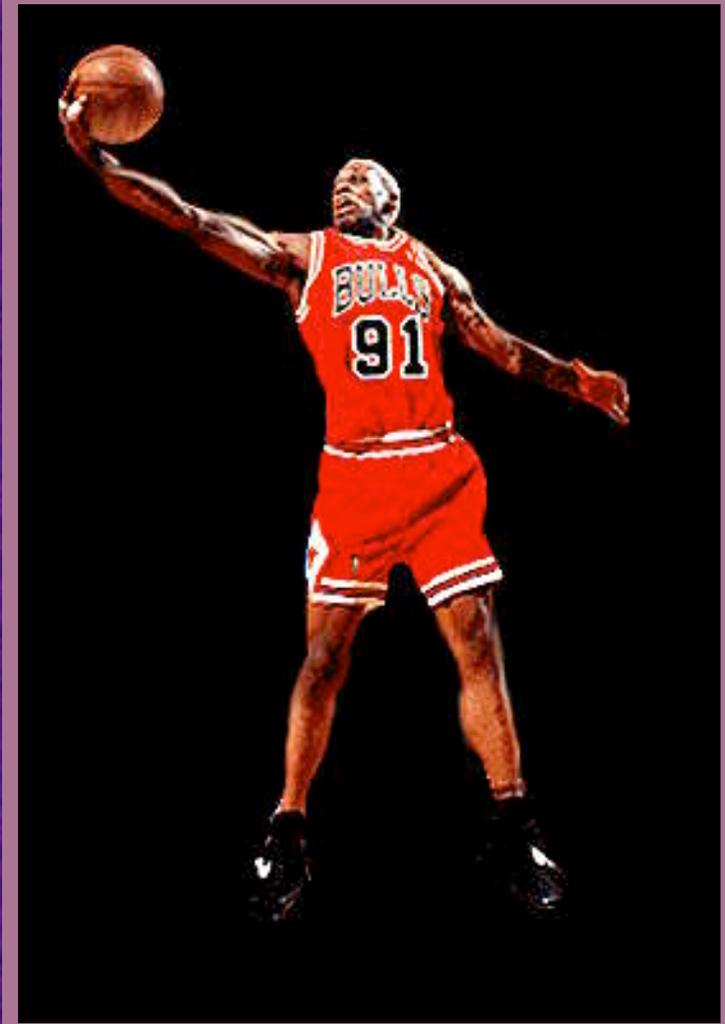
#### 4. Personality disorders: Dramatic and impulsive



- *The Garfield cartoon above humors us with the narcissistic personality. Some argue that the “Narcissist” personality has its roots with “doting parents.” They are taught to overvalue their self worth. In contrast, the grandiose fantasy thinking of the narcissist stems from cold and rejecting parents who do not help their children achieve a healthy sense of self.*

#### *4. Personality disorders: Dramatic and impulsive*

- *The “Histrionic” personality disorder refers to a condition in which one displays excessive emotionality and attention seeking. They thrive on “being on stage.” “Histrionics” live for attention but process feedback on a superficial level because of the lack of the sense of self. The majority of diagnosed histrionics are female but males can also be diagnosed. They can be sexually seductive and provocative.*



*Dennis Rodman’s attention seeking behavior reminds one of the Histrionic*

#### 4. Personality disorders: Dramatic and impulsive

- *In your text, Myers focuses on a single personality disorder known as the “Antisocial.” The slide to the right indicates the DSM-IV criteria for the antisocial personality disorder. The “Antisocial” goes about life with little concern about the consequences of his/her behavior. According to Myers, most criminals do not fit the antisocial criteria to the right. Antisocial personalities usually have strong genetic and environmental roots. Twin and adoption studies reveal a strong genetic vulnerability.*

#### Antisocial Personality Disorder DSM-IV Criteria

A. There is a pervasive pattern of disregard for and violation of the rights of others occurring since age 15 years, as indicated by three (or more) of the following:

- (1) failure to conform to social norms with respect to lawful behaviors as indicated by repeatedly performing acts that are grounds for arrest
- (2) deceitfulness, as indicated by repeated lying, use of aliases, or conning others for personal profit or pleasure
- (3) impulsivity or failure to plan ahead
- (4) irritability and aggressiveness, as indicated by repeated physical fights or assaults
- (5) reckless disregard for safety of self or others
- (6) consistent irresponsibility, as indicated by repeated failure to sustain consistent work behavior or honor financial obligations
- (7) lack of remorse, as indicated by being indifferent to or rationalizing having hurt, mistreated, or stolen from another

B. The individual is at least age 18 years.

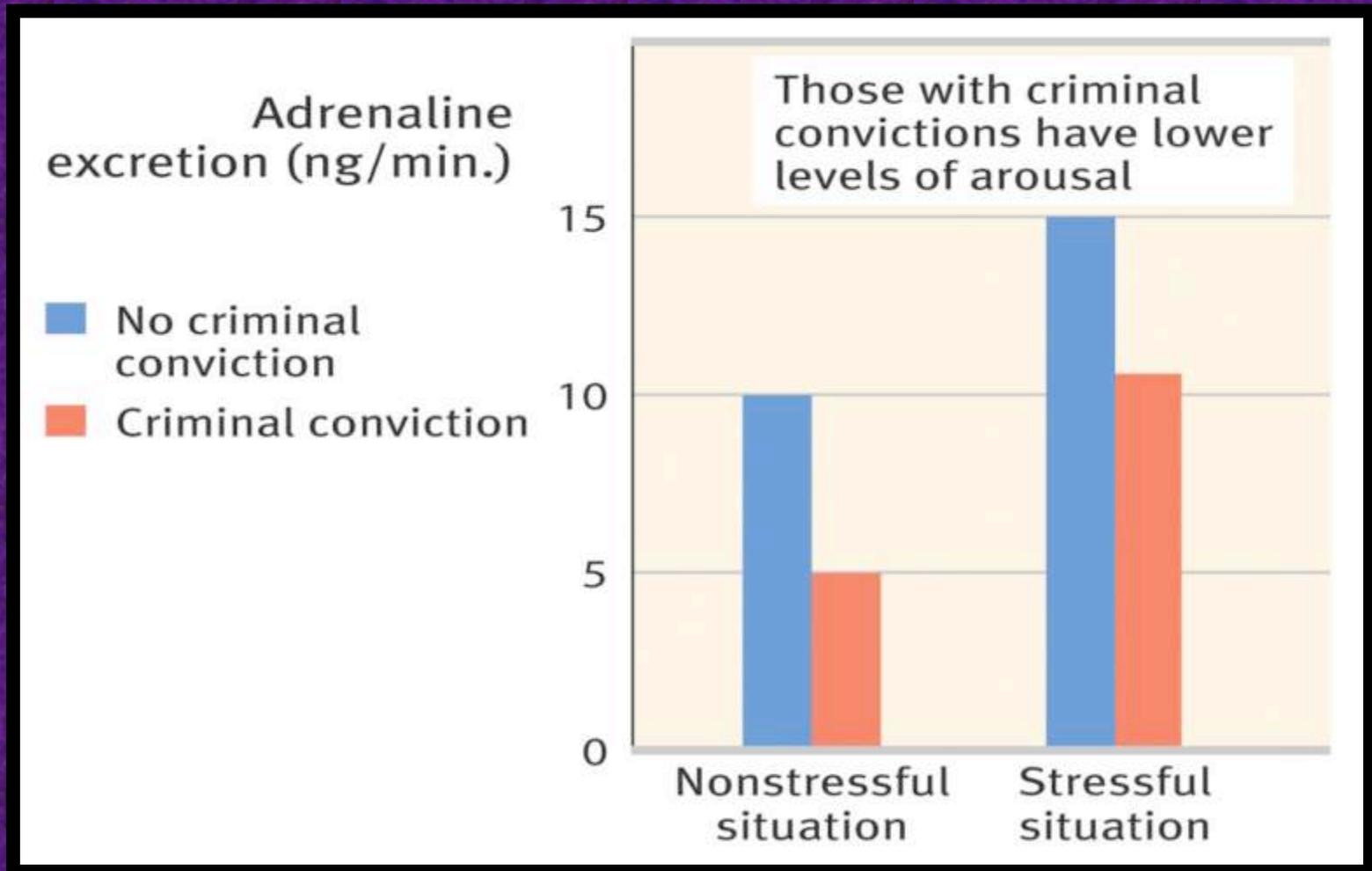
C. There is evidence of Conduct Disorder with onset before age 15 years.

D. The occurrence of antisocial behavior is not exclusively during the course of Schizophrenia or a Manic Episode.

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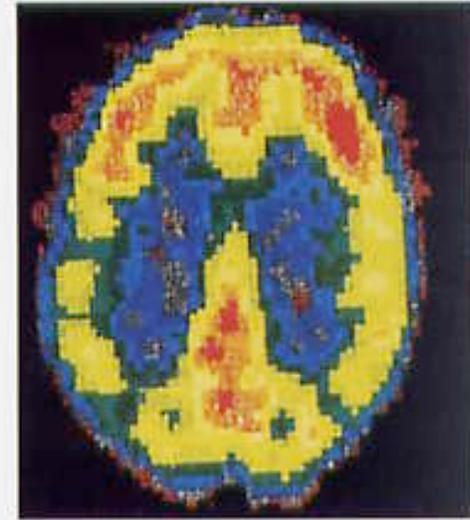
#### 4. Personality disorders: Dramatic and impulsive

- *Biological research indicates that the antisocial central nervous and endocrine systems operates differently. For example, the slide below shows that antisocial convicted criminals show lower autonomic nervous system arousal.*

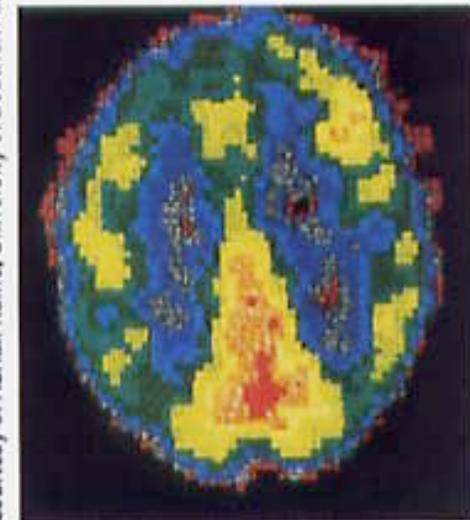


#### 4. Personality disorders: Dramatic and impulsive

- *The slide to the right illustrates two different PET scans. The slide compares the normal and antisocial brains. The antisocial brain shows a lack of activity in the front lobe compared to the normal brain. The frontal lobe is critical region of the brain for impulse control and executive processing. Frontal lobe damage has been linked to problems discerning right from wrong and violent behavior.*



Normal

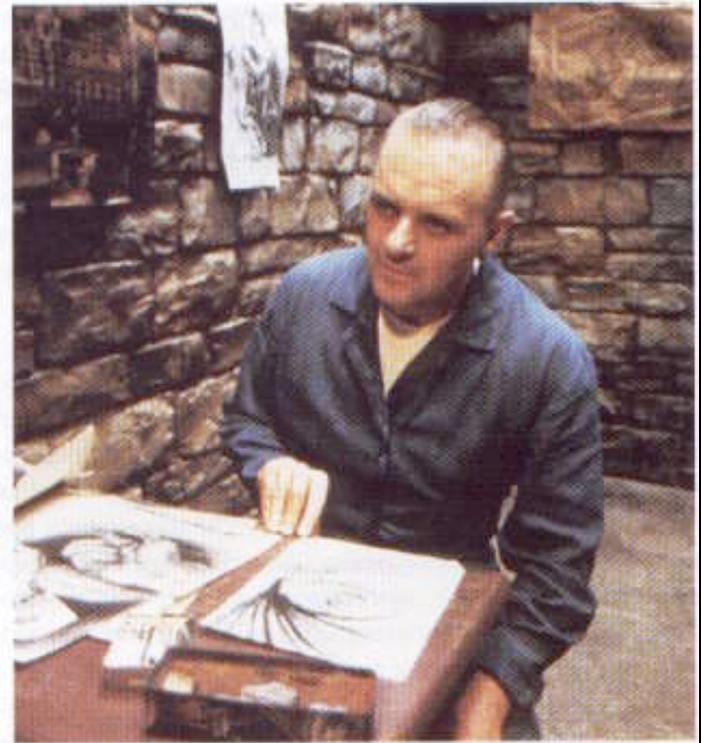


Murderer

Courtesy of Adrian Raine, University of Southern California

#### *4. Personality disorders: Dramatic and impulsive*

- Even though the biological roots to the antisocial personality are convincing, one cannot dismiss environmental factors. Myers notes that if genetics were the sole contributor to antisocial behavior, the continent of Australia would be island prison today. This is because the English exiled 160,000 criminals to Australia. Environmental factors helped to change a society at risk into a civilized culture.*



*Hannibal Lecter  
from “Silence of the  
Lambs” was likely  
a genetic aberration*

## *4. Personality disorders: Dramatic and impulsive*

- Jeffrey Dahmer was the classic antisocial personality disorder. He showed no remorse for his violations toward others. Antisocial personality disorder is marked by impulsive, callous, manipulative, aggressive, and irresponsible behavior that reflects a failure to accept social norms. 40 percent of convicted felons meet the criteria for an antisocial.*



*Jeffrey Dahmer and  
his attorney*

#### 4. Personality disorders: Dramatic and impulsive

- *Myers cites the research of Adrian Raine and colleagues who found that individuals who possess both biological and social risk factors are two times more likely to be criminal offenders. According to Myers, genetics simply predispose a child's sensitivity to environmental maltreatment. The slide below shows the effects of biosocial factors criminal risk. Let's take a look at a clip on the antisocial personality disorder from the film, "Pay It Forward."*

