

Preface

Brainmarks & Things that Go Bump in the Night

Eventually, we all come to realize, often painfully, there are few guarantees in life; factual knowledge may fail to guarantee application as we somehow feel closer to truth when we can see something that “really works.” *BRAINMARKS* is based upon modern neuropsychology—the neuroscience of psychology in modern times, a science that really works. According to Cummings and O’ Donohue (2008) in *Eleven Blunders that Cripple Psychopathy in America** two new and exciting “products” of psychology requiring specialized training and eagerly embraced by industries involving large numbers of psychologists are *forensic psychology* and *neuropsychology*—the focus of this lab manual and a twelve year directed study by the author of the text *Psychology of Deception: Forensic Psychology & Sexually Psychopathic Serial Crime*. Are the owners of sexually psychopathic brains wired beyond foundational repair? Do *biological templates* in cortical tissue predispose one to violent crime? Answers are forthcoming and illuminating about the power of brainmarks.

In the meantime, learning to dodge individuals who set off our *amygdala*—our internal cortical Warning System—is certainly worth spending a few minutes within the pages of this manual written to accompany the new FORS rubric among colleges and universities.

Two Factual Premises

My first premise within the pages of *Brainmarks* is based upon modern biological psychology known as *neuropsychology*—psychology at the tissue level—that we do, in fact, have *documented pathways of powerful interconnected chemistry within the brain*. When these pathways are ignited by chemistry *highly predictable behavior* follows. I refer to these interconnected pathways, the chemistry that ignites them, and the behavior typically expected as *BRAINMARKS—chemistry that marks pathways we take in life*. What’s more, these pathways are instantly transitional and interchangeable, accessible on a daily basis, and can fire up at a glance. They can be energized, modified, and illuminated toward upside goals of creativity and purpose; or turn downside, spiraling into addiction, violence, and *sexual psychopathy—the focus of this manual*. This rapidity of change explains the often used expression—“He just snapped.” No one just snaps without an existing brainmark.

A dynamic capacity known as *adaptive neuroplasticity* allows the brain to be WIRED and REWIRED . . . and yet WIRED again. Imagine how important this fact is to a person whose brain has been wired to abuse, harmful addiction, bad relationships, and/or toxic parenting. That a new pathway can be wired,

while often difficult, painful, and requiring great resolve, should give everyone the *hope of a re-sculptured life with reconfigured pathways*.

A New Science has Emerged

That we must *re-conceptualize* how to apply *rapidly evolving knowledge* in brain neuroscience is my second premise. This position is affirmed by Dr. Daniel Amen, M.D. of Amen Clinics, a psychiatrist who has analyzed brain SPECT scans for over fifteen years and the author of *Change Your Brain Change Your Life* (1998). It is well documented that he has expressed astonishment that *brainwise facts are not in the hands of individuals who need them the most*—practitioners, parents, teachers, and adolescents themselves—and these facts are emerging almost ten years after the *Decade of the Brain* ended in 2000.

As the brain is the organ of thinking, feeling, and behavior it marks the pathways we take in life; whether it's sane or insane makes no difference to the brain.

Brainwise, facts are packed into every page of *Brainmarks*. First however, we must be clear how cascading chemical pathways in the brain ignite normal, abnormal, and cold-blooded psychopathic behavior. We can see in high-resolution brain imagining such as Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT) Scans (soon to be addressed) what the *Decade of the Brain* (1990–2000) produced during a ten year period of intense research focused on the brain. Now, ten years past—better late than never—students can finally address how *brainwise* the literature has become from imaging studies that have been published, replicated, and peer-reviewed. But, who would have known?

Who would have known that a *new science has emerged largely unacknowledged* beyond academic and scientific journals—the new science being criminal neuropsychology (or my term *neurocriminalistics*)—a *neuroscience* showing *biological templates (brainmarks) present in criminal psychopathy*. (Recently, Adrian Raine, PhD, a respected neuroscientist referred to this new foundational science as *neurocriminology*). Truly, it's a new age in psychology!

Neuroimaging technology, or my term NEUROSCANS, is the new Skinner Box of neuropsychology—showing in colorful and high resolution images *how a living brain functions* evidenced by blood flow. Compromised blood flow to specific brain regions has been interpreted as a contributory factor among others in the development of society's most elusive predators—sexual psychopaths—cold-blooded killers—known in pop culture as “serial killers.”

Incidentally, one of the most practical applications of this new science is the complete renovation of parole boards—an extinct dinosaur in criminal justice. Being able to see the condition of a parole-seeking felon's brain, the decision of parole lies emblazoned in his or her neuroscan as words are often irrelevant, mired in deception.

To bolster my argument for the necessity of re-conceptualization of criminal behavior, take the example of *vitamin deficiency* upon pathology, and when corrected, the concomitant effect upon radiant health. Ignorance of Vitamin A's role in preventing night blindness and causing immune systems to crash, resulting in millions of deaths, then reversed completely vanished practically overnight. New knowledge occasioned by *re-conceptualizing* the importance of

vitamin supplementation *and its use* revolutionized health. Today, closer to the pages of this manual, armed with fresh knowledge from brain neuroimaging from convicted murders and cold-blooded sexual psychopaths, we are becoming aware of how deception covers rage and anger barely concealed below the fragile surface of deceptive personas. We see the “boiling and scheming” brain for what it really is—*headquarters for cold-blooded sexually psychopathic serial crime* launching THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT.