

The relationship between the three models of emotional intelligence and psychopathy: a systematic review



Raquel Gómez-Leal*, María José Gutierrez-Cobo*, Rosario Cabello** and Pablo Fernández-Berrocal*

*University of Málaga, Spain

**University of Granada, Spain

Introduction

Psychopathy is symbolized by impulsive, thrill-seeking behaviours combined with anxiety, dishonesty, egocentricity, manipulation, and exploitation of others (Hare, 1991). Given the many instances of violence and crime that occur as a consequence of psychopathy, it is vital to find those variables that can reduce the expression of such behaviours. The Emotional Intelligence (EI) construct, or the ability to perceive, use, understand, and regulate emotions (Mayer, Caruso, & Salovey, 2016), is one potentially useful variable. It has been categorized according to three main approaches (Joseph & Newman, 2010):

- **Performance-based ability:** considers EI as a mental ability based on emotional aptitudes. This model uses performance tests.
- **Self-report ability:** Considers EI in the same as the previous one, but employs self-report instruments
- **Self-report mixed models.** Includes mental abilities, personality factors, motivations, and interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. Employs self-report instruments.

EI could be a protective factor given the emotional deficits of the psychopathic population. Several studies have analysed the relationship between EI and psychopathy, but the results are inconclusive. This disparity may be due to the EI model employed to measure (Gutiérrez-Cobo, Cabello, & Fernández-Berrocal, 2016).

Present Study

AIMS:

1. Review the existing evidence of the relationships between three models of EI and psychopathy in:

- Total population
- Clinical population

Methods

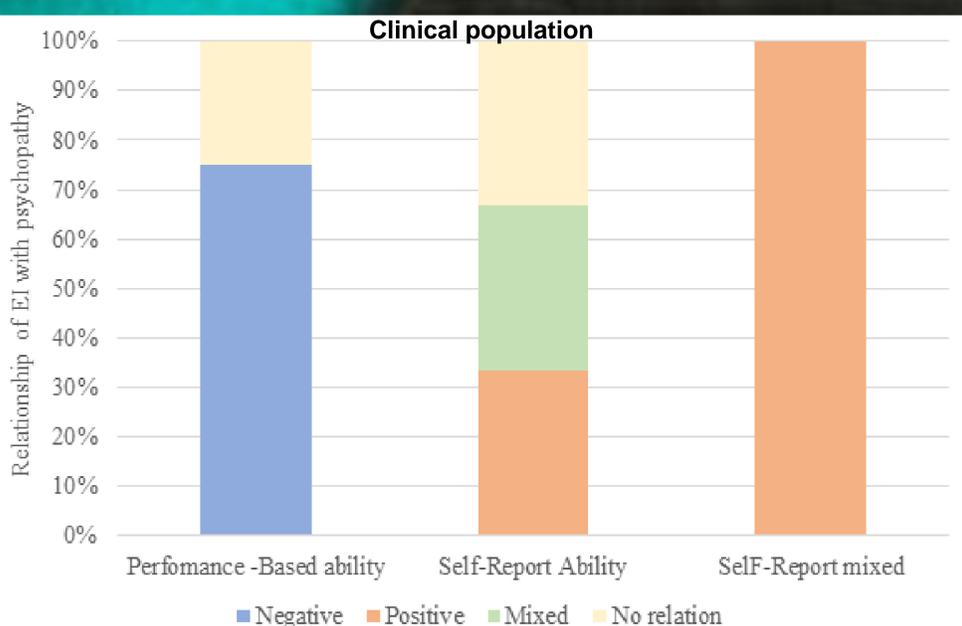
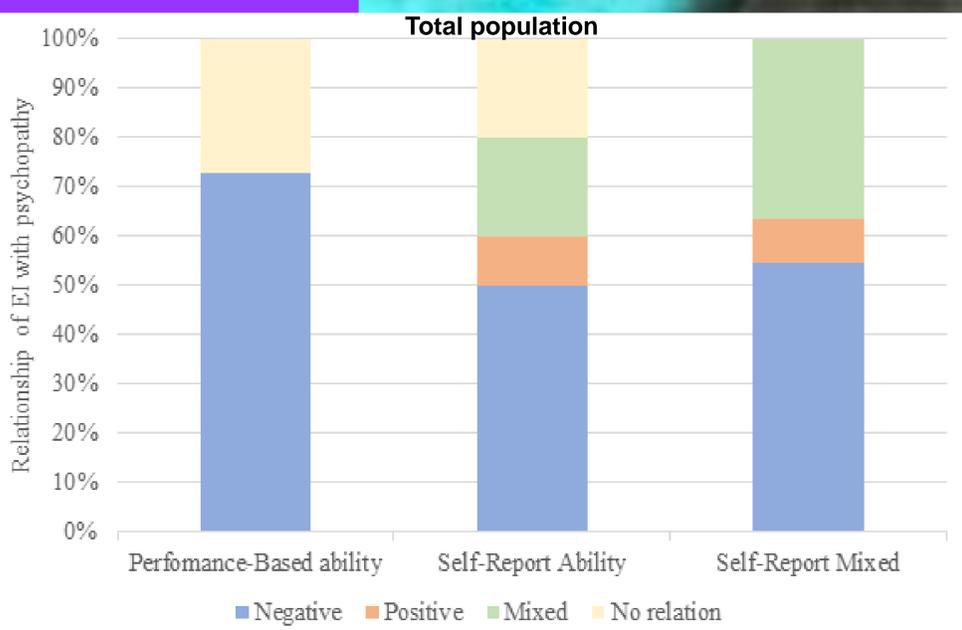
★ **DATABASE:** Scopus, Medline, PsycINFO and Pubmed

★ **KEYWORDS:** “emotional intelligence” with “psychopathic”, “psychopathy” “psychopath”

★ **INCLUSION CRITERIA:**

1. The EI measurement.
 2. The psychopathy trait measurement.
 3. English or Spanish language.
- 📊 29 articles were included in the present review.

Results



Discussion

- The results suggest that higher EI abilities measured through performance-based ability models — but not through self-reports — are related to lower psychopathy deficits
- The performance-based ability model is the most consistent model
- When EI is measured using self-reports, the results are inconsistent.
- The results using the total population and the clinical population are similar
- These conclusions have a series of clinical implications, such as the possible evaluation, prevention, and treatment of psychopathy through the study of EI.

References

- Gutiérrez-Cobo, M.J., Cabello, R., & Fernández-Berrocal, P. (2016). The Relationship between Emotional Intelligence and Cool and Hot Cognitive Processes: A Systematic Review. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, 10:101.
- Hare, R. D. (1991). *The Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R)*. Toronto, Canada: Multi-Health Systems.
- Joseph, D.L., & Newman, D.A. (2010). Emotional intelligence: an integrative meta-analysis and cascading model. *Journal Applied Psychology*, 95, 54–78.
- Mayer, J. D., Caruso, D. R., & Salovey, P. (2016). The ability model of emotional intelligence: Principles and updates. *Emotion Review*, 8(4), 290-300.