Discriminative Value Analysis of Emotions Among Violent Offenders' Population and the General Population

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Abstract

The aim of the present study was to examine the discriminative value of anger measured with Novaco Anger Scale (NAS), Provocation Inventory (PI) and of other functional and dysfunctional negative emotions measured with Profile of Affective Distress (PAD). The self-reported measurements were administered to incarcerated male violent offenders (N=90), incarcerated male nonviolent offenders (N=90), and non-offenders male (N=30). The Receiver-Operating Characteristic (ROC) analysis was used to evaluate the discriminative value of emotions to confine between violent offenders and non-offenders. In this way we chose a novel method to evaluate the role of emotions in violent offending behavior. The results indicated that the functional (AUC=0.78, *SD*=0.04) and dysfunctional sadness/depression (AUC=0.76, *SD*=0.04) scales have the highest discriminative value of violence in inmate's population comparative to the lower accuracy of anger measurements. The study also demonstrated that the violent prisoners experience higher levels of sadness and depression in detention environment comparative to non-detained general population.

Keywords

functional negative emotions, dysfunctional negative emotions, anger, sadness, depression, violent offenders, non-offenders

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