



# Investigating the Prosocial Psychopath Model of the Creative Personality: Evidence from traits and Psychophysiology

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## Abstract

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The prosocial psychopath model of creativity (Galang 2010) proposes that some highly creative personalities share certain neuropsychological features in common with people who are described as having psychopathic traits. A key part of the model predicts that psychopathy-related traits such as risk-taking behavior and lowered autonomic response as measured by electrodermal activity (EDA) in the context of risk will be related to creativity. Three studies are reported here that show evidence for the model. The results of Study 1 and 2 indicate that traits related to psychopathy, specifically Boldness, correlate with creative achievement. Study 3 demonstrated that reduced EDA lability during the Iowa Gambling Task (IGT; Bechara et al., 1994) predicted better divergent thinking scores. Together, studies support the basic claims of the model regarding the link between emotional disinhibition and creativity.

## Keywords

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creativity, personality, psychopathy, EDA, risk-taking, Iowa Gambling Task