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Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Priyanjali Paul, Registration Number: 1850090, PhD Scholar at the School of Psychological Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Tuesday, 10 March 2026 at 10.00 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R&D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

Title of the Thesis	:	**Neuropsychological and Electrophysiological Correlates of Psychopathic Traits among Young Adults**
Discipline	:	**Psychology**
External Examiner - I	:	**Dr Gayatri Hegde** Associate Professor Department of Clinical Psychology Dharwad Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (DIMHANS) Dharwad - 580008 Karnataka
External Examiner - II	:	**Dr Gauri Shanker Kaloiya** Professor Department of Clinical Psychology All India Institute of Medical Sciences Sri Aurobindo Marg, Ansari Nagar New Delhi - 110029
Supervisor	:	**Dr Madhavi Rangaswamy** Professor School of Psychological Sciences CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Bengaluru - 560029 Karnataka
Co-supervisor	:	**Dr Cathlyn Niranjana Bennett** Assistant Professor (Former) School of Psychological Sciences CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Bengaluru - 560029 Karnataka

The members of the Research Advisory Committee of the Scholar, the faculty members of the Department and the School, interested experts and research scholars of all the branches of research are cordially invited to attend this open viva–voce examination.

Registrar (Academics)

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 18 February 2026

ABSTRACT

Psychopathy is a multidimensional construct involving interpersonal, affective, and lifestyle/antisocial traits, with documented impairments in cognitive-affective processing. However, evidence from non-Western populations remains limited. The present study examined electrophysiological (ERP), neuropsychological, and behavioural correlates of psychopathy traits in an Indian college sample. A total of 313 emerging adults (18-25 years), females and males, all pursuing higher education at an urban university in India, were screened using the Triarchic Psychopathy Measure. Based on their scores, participants were categorised into two groups, low (n=22; 95% female) and high psychopathy (n=27; 41% female) traits (LP and HP), resulting in a final sample of 49 individuals (65% female). Participants completed Reactive-Proactive Aggression Questionnaire (RPQ), Questionnaire of Cognitive and Affective Empathy (QCAE), the Modified Mini Screen (MMS), along with the NIMHANS Neuropsychological Battery (NNB) and Read the Mind in The Eyes task (RMET). A modified affective processing task with pleasant, unpleasant, and neutral International Affective Picture System (IAPS) images under bottom-up and top-down conditions was administered during EEG recording (64-channel). ERP components P1, N1, and late positive potential (LPP) were analysed. Between-group analyses revealed that, compared to the LP group, individuals with HP traits exhibited increased reactive and proactive aggression, reduced self-reported cognitive empathy, reduced verbal long-term retrieval, and altered planning and problem-solving abilities. ERP results showed that the HP group demonstrated significantly enhanced and delayed early attentional engagement (larger and delayed N1) but reduced sensory gating (smaller P1) and blunted sustained processing of affectively salient, task-irrelevant stimuli (smaller LPP at posterior sites) compared to LP group. Partial correlation analyses indicated that psychopathy traits were differentially related to the neural, cognitive, and behavioural measures. Boldness was associated with an adaptive affective-executive profile, while meanness and disinhibition were related to maladaptive-callous-aggressive profile. These findings provide a multi-system perspective on psychopathy traits in emerging adults, highlight early attentional and sustained processing differences between HP and LP groups, identifies differential associations of the three interconnected yet distinct triarchic traits and address the cultural gap in psychopathy research by including an Indian urban sample. Implications for culturally sensitive assessment and targeted interventions are discussed.

Keywords:*Psychopathy, Triarchic traits, Aggression, Empathy, Electrophysiology, Neuropsychology, Clinical Psychology*

Publication:

1. **Paul P**, Bennett CN. Review of Neuropsychological and Electrophysiological Correlates of Callous-unemotional Traits in Children: Implications for EEG Neurofeedback Intervention. Clin EEG Neurosci. 2021 Sep;52(5):321-329. doi: 10.1177/1550059421997129. Epub 2021 Mar 12. PMID: 33709806.