

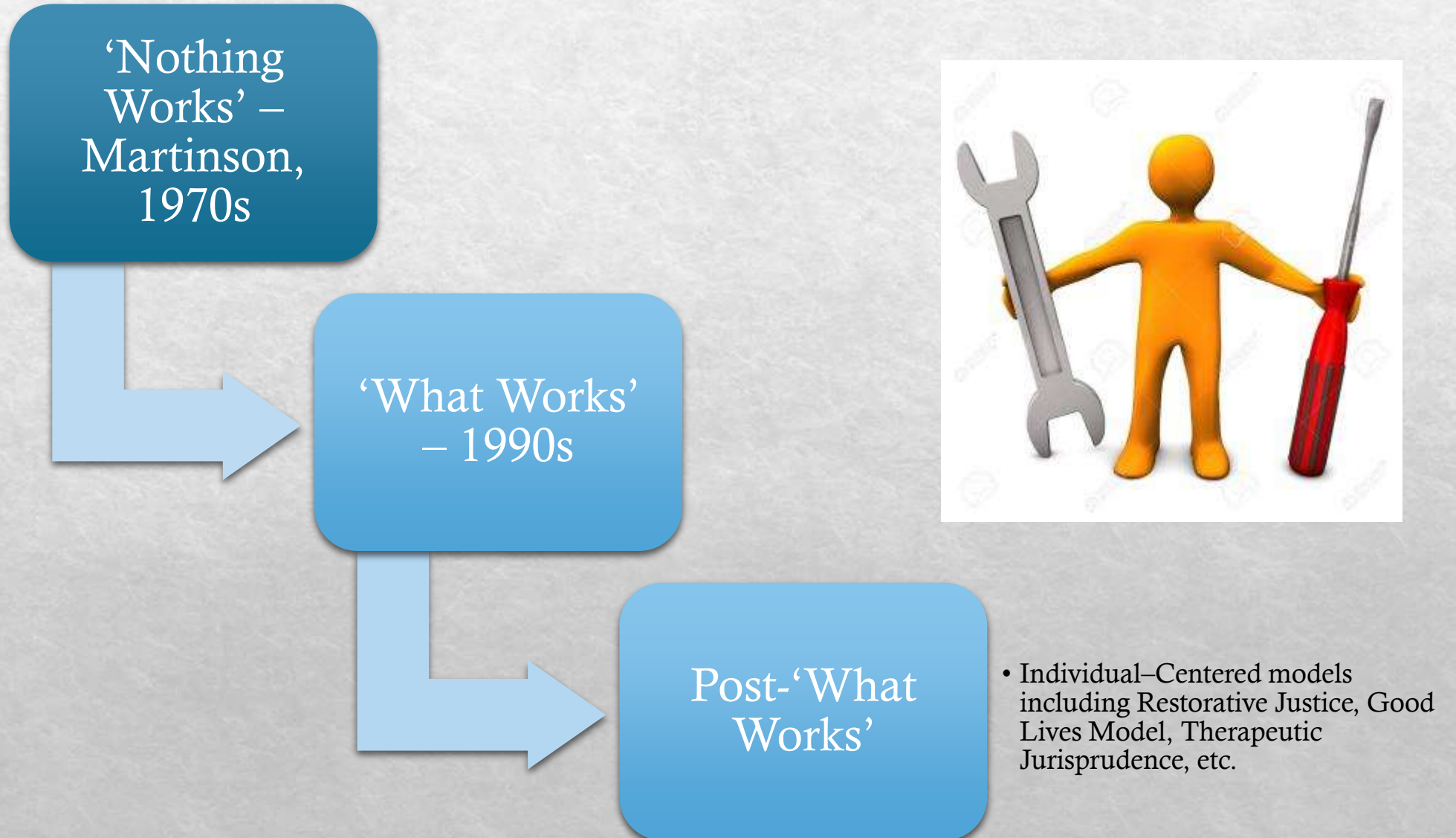
**Targeted Rehabilitation:
A Criminological and Psychological Approach to
Reducing Recidivism Using Personality Traits to
Achieve Treatment Efficacy**

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Outline

- ◆ Background
 - A Brief History of Rehabilitation
 - The Trait Theory Five-Factor Model
 - The Relationship between Personality and Criminality
- ◆ Overview of the Research Question
- ◆ Significance of the Project
- ◆ Methodology
- ◆ Thesis Structure
- ◆ Current Progress

Background – Rehabilitation



Background – Big 5 Model of Personality

Allport and Odbert (1936)




- Lexical study: highlighted four broad categories

1. Personality traits
2. Temporary states
3. Evaluative judgements of personal conduct
4. Physical characteristics


- Their search resulted in over 18,000 words being selected, the refining of which has taken up most research in personality theory for over 60 years

Background – Big 5 Model of Personality

Cattell (1943) - culled the 18,000-word list provided by Allport and Odbert



Cattell refined the initial 4,500 personality trait terms into a list of 35 variables (John et al., 2010).



The summation of this work resulted in Fiske (1949), Tupes and Christal (1961), and Norman (1963) stipulating that there were “five relatively strong and recurrent factors (from Cattell’s list) and nothing more of any consequence”.

Background – Big 5 Model of Personality

Neuroticism - Stability	The extent to which people are worried or calm, nervous or at ease, insecure or secure.
Extraversion - Introversion	The extent to which people are social or unsocial, talkative or quiet, affectionate or reserved.
Openness to Experience	The extent to which people are open to experience or closed, independent or conforming, creative or uncreative, daring or timid.
Agreeableness - Antagonism	The extent to which people are good mannered or irritable, courteous or rude, flexible or stubborn, lenient or critical.
Conscientiousness - Undirectedness	The extent to which people are reliable or undependable, careful or careless, punctual or late, well organised or disorganised.

Background – Personality and Criminality

Eysenck (1950s onward)

- Initial work on the links between personality and criminal behaviour

Originally three dimensions

- Extroverted or Introverted,
- Neuroticism or Stable,
- Psychoticism

- Research suffered from the limitations of measurement tools of the time



RQ: How can personality variables be used to target rehabilitation programs for offenders?



Two objectives

To determine what types of offences are significantly related to which personality traits (using personality traits at a domain and facet level)

To match offenders, by personality traits, to what existing literature identifies as the most responsive and effective treatment options

Significance of the Project

1. Recidivism rates in many countries across the world are high, including Australia at 44.3%, and more specifically Western Australia at 39% in 2013-14.

2. While there is a limited amount of literature which assesses the relationship between personality variables and crime (Dennison et al., 2001), no comprehensive framework exists that displays the relationship between personality traits and criminal offences.

Significance of the Project

3. The findings can help institutions to bypass the costly and time heavy process needed to conduct personality inventories on every offender for the purposes of rehabilitation responsiveness.

4. The findings should apply on an international level. Having samples from both Australia and the Czech Republic will aid in supporting this theory.

5. The project will be collating most of the modern research on personality and treatment efficacy in rehabilitation into one document.

Methodology

Participants

Materials

Procedure & Data Collection

Data Analysis

Summary Implications



Participants

Participant sampling will be based on the major type of offences committed by offenders within Western Australia, offenders within the Czech Republic, and ex-offenders within Western Australia.

- Ideally, each sample will consist of 100 participants.

Materials

The measure being used is the 100 item HEXACO Personality Inventory (Revised) (HEXACO-PI-R), developed from the HEXACO model of personality.

An additional open-ended survey form will be asked of the Australian ex-offender and offender samples. The questions asked will pertain to what participants found helpful or unhelpful, and why, about their rehabilitation experiences and treatment programs.

Data Analysis

Existing norm data

Between offender groups

Offence type profiles

Summary Implications

The research will be linked with existing literature

Development of a framework

Lower levels of recidivism

Applicable internationally

Thesis Structure and Current Progress

✓ ✓ Background and Theoretical Review

□ Systematic Literature Reviews – *In Progress*

- *Personality & Criminality*
- *Personality & Treatment Responsivity and Effectiveness*

✓ Methodology

□ Data Collection – *In Progress*

Results

□ Discussion

□ Implications and Recommendations

Thank You For Listening

Considerations



Question:

Why complete ex-offender and offender personality tests in the study when you have the information from the systematic literature reviews?

Reply:

- They will not provide the whole picture – gaps in the research exist.
- Replication of previous findings is important.
- Qualitative aspect adds a unique element to the study.

Considerations



Question:

Won't you just be replacing one 'one size fits all' model for another?

Reply:

-It is meant to provide guidance – to augment decision making alongside other criminogenic factors.

Correctional departments could use the findings without the need to perform personality inventories on their inmates (a costly/timely process).

If they do choose to conduct personality inventories, benefits from the systematic literature reviews are present.

Considerations



Question: What about those who do not have the traits that the framework suggests they will?

Reply: -No form of statistical analysis is without error.
It is impossible to nullify that situation occurring (humans are rarely simple!)

The multiple types of analysis being conducted will highlight and accurately report the strength of likelihood that if someone commits a certain type of offence what personality traits they are likely to have.

The research and framework are designed to work alongside other offender rehabilitation services.

Considerations



Question

Why focus on personality traits and not types

Question

Why use the HEXACO-100 over other inventories such as the NEO-PI-R