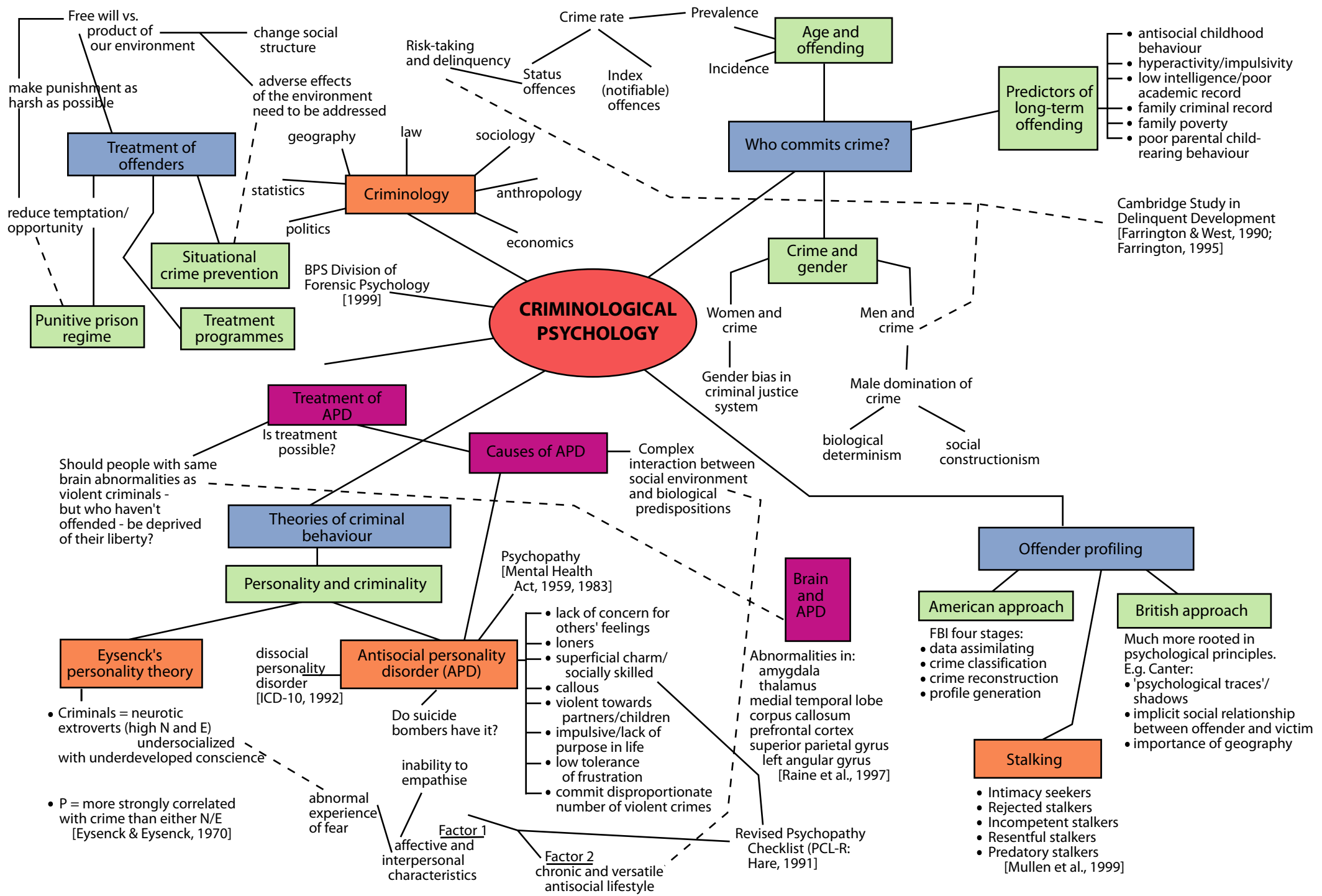
CRIMINOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY
Criminology
geography
law
sociology
anthropology
economics
politics
statistics
BPS Division of Forensic Psychology [1999]
Treatment of offenders
Free will vs. product of our environment
change social structure
adverse effects of the environment need to be addressed
make punishment as harsh as possible
reduce temptation/ opportunity
Situational crime prevention
Punitive prison regime
Treatment programmes
Who commits crime?
Age and offending
Crime rate
Prevalence
Incidence
Risk-taking and delinquency
Status offences
Index (notifiable) offences
Predictors of long-term offending
antisocial childhood behaviour
hyperactivity/impulsivity
low intelligence/poor academic record
family criminal record
family poverty
poor parental child-rearing behaviour
Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development [Farrington & West, 1990; Farrington, 1995]
Crime and gender
Women and crime
Men and crime
Gender bias in criminal justice system
Male domination of crime
biological determinism
social constructionism
Treatment of APD
Is treatment possible?
Causes of APD
Complex interaction between social environment and biological predispositions
Should people with same brain abnormalities as violent criminals - but who haven't offended - be deprived of their liberty?
Theories of criminal behaviour
Personality and criminality
Psychopathy [Mental Health Act, 1959, 1983]
Eysenck's personality theory
Criminals = neurotic extroverts (high N and E) undersocialized with underdeveloped conscience
P = more strongly correlated with crime than either N/E [Eysenck & Eysenck, 1970]
dissocial personality disorder [ICD-10, 1992]
Antisocial personality disorder (APD)
Do suicide bombers have it?
lack of concern for others' feelings
loners
superficial charm/ socially skilled
callous
violent towards partners/children
impulsive/lack of purpose in life
low tolerance of frustration
commit disproportionate number of violent crimes
abnormal experience of fear
inability to empathise
Factor 1
affective and interpersonal characteristics
Factor 2
chronic and versatile antisocial lifestyle
Revised Psychopathy Checklist (PCL-R: Hare, 1991]
Brain and APD
Abnormalities in:
amygdala
thalamus
medial temporal lobe
corpus callosum
prefrontal cortex
superior parietal gyrus
left angular gyrus
[Raine et al., 1997]
Offender profiling
American approach
FBI four stages:
data assimilating
crime classification
crime reconstruction
profile generation
British approach
Much more rooted in psychological principles.
E.g. Canter:
'psychological traces'/ shadows
implicit social relationship between offender and victim
importance of geography
Stalking
Intimacy seekers
Rejected stalkers
Incompetent stalkers
Resentful stalkers
Predatory stalkers
[Mullen et al., 1999]