



BRACE Analysis

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BRACE Character Profile™

BRACE™ Work Adjustment Profile

BRACE Character Profile™ Psychological Autopsy

Name of Person Rated: Cho Seung-Hui

Input Ratings by: Russell L. Smith on May 6, 2007

BRACE Character Profile™ Analysis by: Russell L. Smith

Date of Analysis: May 9, 2007

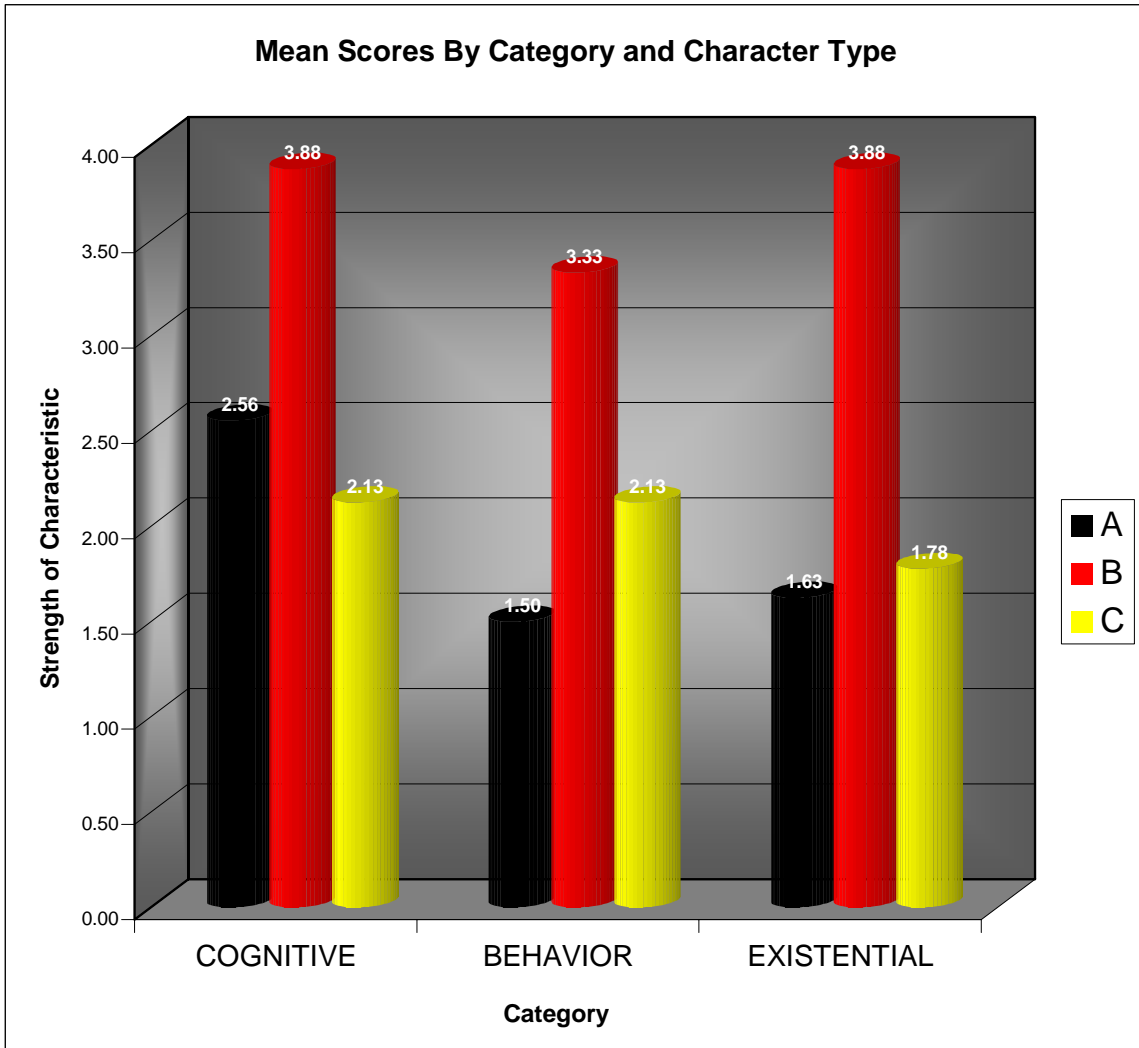
On April 16, 2007, student Cho Seung-Hui deliberately and systematically shot and killed 32 people and himself on the campus of Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Virginia. The current profile is based on generally available media reports and information posted on various internet forums, including video communications and articles written by Cho. See www.lulu.com/content/819495 for a free download (PDF format) of the BRACE Character Profile™ Manual, which further explains this profiling technique.

STANDARD INFORMATION: The underlying structure of the BRACE Character Profile™ is based on three prototypical character types (Type A, Type B, and Type C), which are each rated on a 5-point scale on eight Cognitive variables, eight Behavior variables, and eight Existential or Motivation variables. The **basic graphic** generated by a BRACE Character Profile™ represents the degree to which the rated individual's characteristic manner of thought, behavior, and motivation is similar to or different from each of the three prototypical character types. Once rated, the individual can be compared and contrasted with any previously rated individual, real or imagined, dead or alive, and to any other "prototypical" or archetype in the BRACE Character Profile™ database (DSM-IV-TR™¹ personality disorders, 40-point Hare PCL-R², Asperger's Disorder, ADHD, etc.).

The input ratings for the BRACE Character Profile™ can be completed by anyone with basic reading skills and the ability to objectively rate statements about a well known or well conceptualized person or prototypical type. Consensus input ratings by two or more individuals increases the knowledge base and minimizes rating biases. However, one objective rater with good knowledge of the character being rated is sufficient.

In the final analysis, the BRACE Character Profile™ merely puts the image that is in the rater's mind into an objective and meaningful format, which can be shared and considered from many different angles, much like a hologram or a virtual reality tour of a house. The bits and pieces of information included in the input ratings are transformed into a virtual persona of the individual in the mind of the rater. This process is certainly affected by the knowledge base for input ratings, the objectivity and critical thinking skills of the rater, and the adherence of the rater to the BRACE Character Profile™ rating procedures, which are printed on the input form.

Basic BRACE Character Profile™ Graphic:



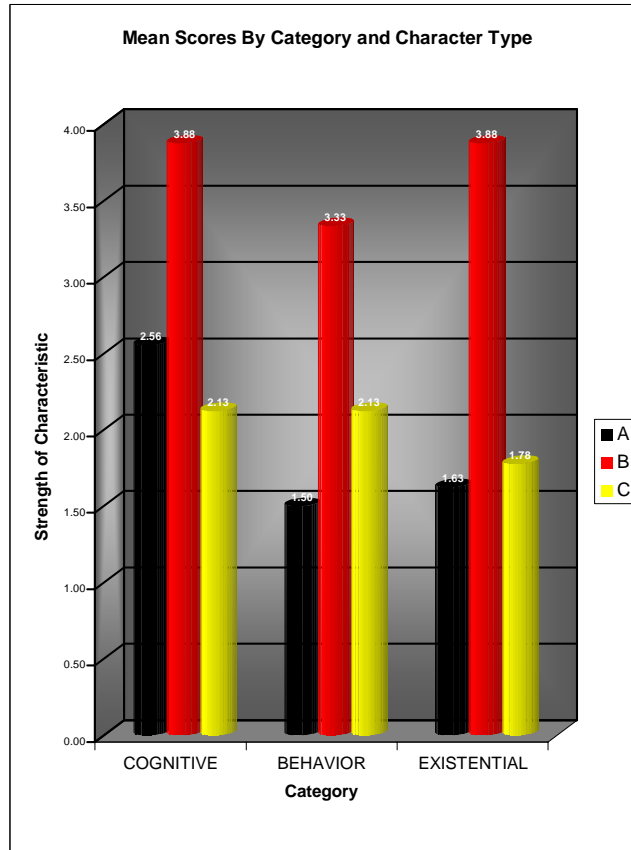
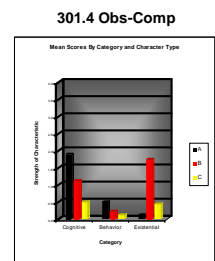
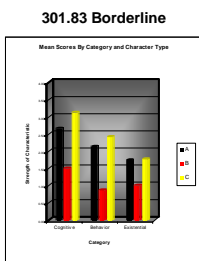
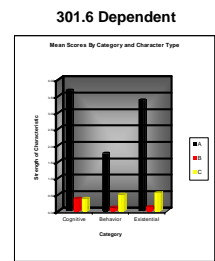
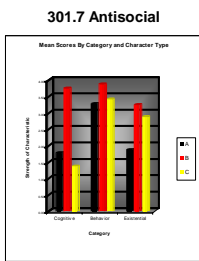
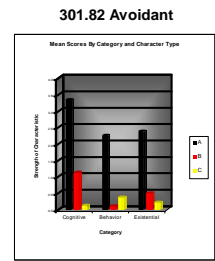
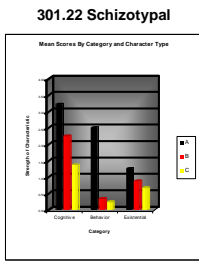
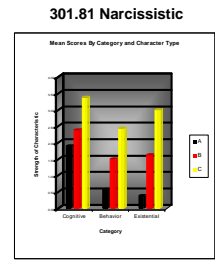
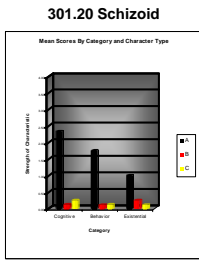
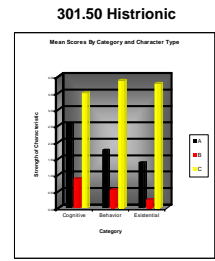
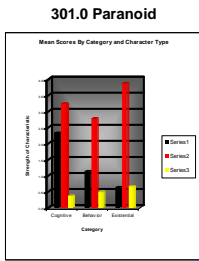
Cho

Means by Character Type and Variables				
	Cognitive	Behavior	Existential	
A	2.56	1.50	1.63	1.89
B	3.88	3.33	3.88	3.69
C	2.13	2.13	1.78	2.01
	2.85	2.32	2.43	2.53



Note: The A (black), B (red), and C (yellow) in the above chart and graphic corresponds to Type A, Type B, and Type C characteristics.

BRACE Character Profile™ Comparison to DSM-IV-TR™ Personality Disorders



Cho

Means by Character Type and Variables				
	Cognitive	Behavior	Existential	
A	2.56	1.50	1.63	1.89
B	3.88	3.33	3.88	3.69
C	2.13	2.13	1.78	2.01
	2.85	2.32	2.43	2.53

The above chart reflects Cho's basic BRACE Character Profile™ graphic in the center, bordered by the basic graphics of the 10 personality disorders of DSM-IV-TR™ as follows:

Left Side Graphics
301.0 Paranoid (likely match)
301.20 Schizoid (not a likely match)
301.22 Schizotypal (possible traits)
301.7 Antisocial (likely match)
301.83 Borderline (possible traits)

Right Side Graphics
301.50 Histrionic (possible traits)
301.81 Narcissistic (possible traits)
301.82 Avoidant (not a likely match)
301.6 Dependent (not a likely match)
301.4 Obsessive-Comp. (possible traits)

The BRACE Character Profile™ is designed to profile maladaptive patterns, even those that may be subthreshold. Visual Comparison of the basic BRACE Character Profile™ graphic with the 10 DSM-IV-TR™ personality disorders can be used to help “rule-in” and “rule-out” various possible matches (see above), just to narrow the focus of an analysis. This is still a very gross level of analysis, but at times it is all that is needed. **[In the current case, the visual comparison may actually be misleading related to Antisocial, Schizoid, and Avoidant Personality characteristics.]** The only visual comparisons that **appear** to be possible matches are Paranoid Personality Disorder and Antisocial Personality Disorder. On the other hand, Avoidant, Schizoid and Dependent personality disorders can likely be ruled out. Those remaining have some patterns that may relate but they are unclear.

Analysis of Cho’s Basic BRACE Character Profile™ Graphic:

There is very clear pathology in all three Domains (Cognitive, Behavior and Existential); each dominated by matters of power and control (Type B characteristics). This is the profile of a loner preoccupied with self-serving control in all aspects of life and living. Although Cho presented himself as a victim, he willingly used noncompliance and active opposition to motivate others to meet his needs and accommodate his worldview. In fact, such thinking, behavior, and motivation encapsulated his lifestyle. There is sufficient dysfunction to suggest an underlying psychotic process, but it will take a clinician familiar with the case to make such a determination. These clusters of characteristics are discussed in the next section.

With this and other graphic comparisons, one must keep in mind that similar **Type** and similar **Domain** scores may be generated by different underlying structures. Bottom line is that a visual comparison of BRACE Character Profile™ graphics helps inform clinical opinion or the opinion of anyone familiar with the BRACE Character Profile™. Some alternatives can be ruled-out and others more seriously considered through a more detailed analysis of underlying variables and correlations. When a more sophisticated analysis is required, the ratings that make up each component part of the graphics can be correlated for direct comparison with any “prototypical type” or any other individual in the database. It is a quantum leap into the nature of the person rated.

BRACE Character Profile™ CORRELATION SUMMARY ANALYSIS AIDES:

NOTE: A clinician using the BRACE Character Profile™ graphics and correlations for the DSM-IV-TR™ diagnostic categories will need to keep in mind that the DSM-IV-TR™ Personality Disorders are not equal in terms of the types of information used as a “diagnostic criteria” --- nor are they equal in terms of the number of available criteria that must be met in order for a diagnosis to be made --- nor are they equal in terms of

the number and types of other qualifiers which must be taken into consideration in order to make a diagnosis. DSM-IV-TR™ is a categorical classification, but all members of a diagnostic class are not homogeneous, class boundaries are not clear, and there is significant overlap between “classifications.”

The BRACE Character Profile™ is a dimensional classification system which provides numerical and graphic information, which may be subthreshold, based on a quantification of core characteristics common to human nature. In fact, negative correlations provide as much clinical information as positive correlations.

The color coding used in a BRACE Character Profile™ correlation chart is somewhat like a traffic light:

- **green** is a *GO* for high positive correlation (.05 or higher).
- **yellow** is a *CAUTION* for a positive correlation which deserves consideration (.1 to .06).
- **red** is a *STOP*, which indicates a negative correlation of .1 or higher.

It is the combination of high correlations, both positive and negative, that yields the analysis. If one knows how a person thinks, what a person thinks about, what a person does, and what a person wants, then the person is 100% profiled. On the flip side, if one knows how a person does NOT think, what a person does NOT think about, what a person does NOT do, and what a person does NOT want, then the person is also 100% profiled.

Consider the 10 personality disorders of DSM-IV-TR™. When there are several significant positive correlations and several significant negative correlations that consistently complement each other in terms of the functional characteristics, the individual profiled is well formulated and has a high level of definition is provided by the stark contrasts.

Note that “Diagnostic Considerations” means exactly that ... consider ... and apply clinical skills. The correlations are indicators, but analysis requires consideration of known facts, other sources of information, and the analysis of each Type (A, B, and C) and each Domain (Cognitive, Behavior, and Existential). The BRACE Character Profile™ reflects maladaptive patterns --- characteristics of thought, behavior, and motivation --- **it does not presume to make clinical diagnoses. There are many potential clinical pathways to any cluster of cognitive-behavioral-existential characteristics.**

The following charts, analysis aides, include correlations with prototypical profiles for the 10 DSM-IV-TR™ Personality Disorders, a 40-point HARE PCL-R, and the DSM-IV-TR™ Asperger’s Disorder, which is an Autism Spectrum Disorder. The 12 columns from left to right are: 301.0 Paranoid Personality Disorder, 301.20 Schizoid Personality Disorder, 301.22 Schizotypal Personality Disorder, 301.7 Antisocial Personality Disorder, 301.83 Borderline Personality Disorder, 301.50 Histrionic Personality Disorder, 301.81 Narcissistic Personality Disorder, 301.82 Avoidant Personality Disorder, 301.6 Dependent Personality Disorder,

301.4 Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder, a prototypical 40-point Hare PCL-R, and a prototypical 299.80 Asperger's Disorder.

The **green** and **yellow** color codes indicate statistically significant positive correlations. The **red** color codes indicate statistically significant negative correlations --- i.e., a marked absence of such characteristics.

DIAGNOSTIC CONSIDERATIONS AND ANALYSIS

BRACE Character Profile™ Correlations Summary Analysis Aide												
DIAGNOSTIC CONSIDERATIONS												
OVERALL												
Cho	M = 2.53			SD = 1.41			df = 73					
	301.0	301.20	301.22	301.7	301.83	301.50	301.81	301.82	301.6	301.4	HARE-40	ASPERGER'S
r =	0.53	-0.17	0.05	0.10	-0.17	-0.34	0.13	0.09	-0.23	0.27	0.08	-0.04
M =	1.73	0.68	1.41	2.81	1.92	2.07	1.93	1.16	1.21	0.75	3.36	1.38

OVERALL:

Significant Positive Correlations in rank order: 301.0 Paranoid Personality Disorder (r = +0.53) and 301.4 Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder (r = +0.27).

Significant Negative Correlations in rank order: 301.50 Histrionic Personality Disorder (r = -0.34) and 301.6 Dependent Personality Disorder (r = -0.23).

Analysis: Cho was preoccupied with mental and interpersonal control, assertively independent, and void of overt emotionality. He was exclusionary in his thinking and actions; however, he did not display overall characteristics consistent with criminality or psychopathy. Also note that there is no significant correlation, positive or negative, with Asperger's Disorder. A more detailed analysis of the underlying nature of these characteristics follows.

DOMAIN DYSFUNCTION												
COGNITIVE												
Cho	M = 2.84			SD = 1.21			df = 23					
	301.0	301.20	301.22	301.7	301.83	301.50	301.81	301.82	301.6	301.4	HARE-40	ASPERGER'S
r =	0.53	-0.03	0.13	0.44	-0.44	-0.54	-0.02	0.26	-0.11	0.02	0.13	-0.24
M =	2.00	0.96	2.32	2.28	2.44	2.32	2.52	1.60	1.56	1.20	3.60	2.04

BEHAVIOR												
Cho	M = 2.36			SD = 1.44			df = 23					
	301.0	301.20	301.22	301.7	301.83	301.50	301.81	301.82	301.6	301.4	HARE-40	ASPERGER'S
r =	0.33	-0.40	-0.32	-0.05	-0.38	-0.31	0.29	-0.18	-0.40	0.03	-0.21	-0.36
M =	1.52	0.64	1.00	3.55	1.77	2.00	1.50	0.88	0.76	0.28	3.28	1.00

EXISTENTIAL												
Cho	M = 2.40			SD = 1.55			df = 23					
	301.0	301.20	301.22	301.7	301.83	301.50	301.81	301.82	301.6	301.4	HARE-40	ASPERGER'S
r =	0.66	-0.19	0.18	0.11	0.19	-0.29	0.03	0.08	-0.34	0.65	0.25	0.22
M =	1.68	0.44	0.92	2.68	1.52	1.88	1.72	1.00	1.32	0.76	3.20	1.04

DOMAIN DYSFUNCTION:

COGNITIVE:

Significant Positive Correlations in rank order: 301.0 Paranoid Personality Disorder (r = +0.53) and 301.7 Antisocial Personality Disorder (r = +0.44).

Significant Negative Correlations in rank order: 301.50 Histrionic Personality Disorder (r = -0.54) and 301.83 Borderline Personality Disorder (r = -0.44).

BEHAVIOR:

Significant Positive Correlations in rank order: None.

Significant Negative Correlations in rank order: 301.20 Schizoid Personality Disorder (r = -0.40), 301.6 Dependent Personality Disorder (r = -0.40), 301.83 Borderline Personality Disorder (r = -0.38), and 299.80 Asperger’s Disorder (r = -0.36).

EXISTENTIAL:

Significant Positive Correlations in rank order: 301.0 Paranoid Personality Disorder (r = +0.66) and 301.4 Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder (r = +0.65).

Significant Negative Correlations in rank order: 301.6 Dependent Personality Disorder (r = -0.34).

Analysis: It is noteworthy that 1) Cho’s Cognitive processes are consistent with the characteristics of Antisocial Personality Disorder but not with a prototypical psychopath, 2) his Behavior and Existential (motivation) characteristics do not reflect general criminality or psychopathy, and 3) all of the significant correlations in the Behavior domain are negative. In combination, these characteristics suggest a deliberate indifference to other people rather than any lack of capacity or understanding. Cho’s primary desire was absolute independence and complete interpersonal power and control. He had a well defined self-image, was calculating and deliberate rather than impulsive, and his fantasies were self-serving, actively cultivated, and indifferent to the rights of others.

CHARACTER DYSFUNCTION												
TYPE A												
Cho	M = 1.92		SD = 1.47		df = 23							
	.01 to .05		.06 to .10		-.01 to -.10							
	301.0	301.20	301.22	301.7	301.83	301.50	301.81	301.82	301.6	301.4	HARE-40	ASPERGER'S
r =	0.24	-0.06	0.12	-0.52	0.18	0.23	0.10	0.64	0.29	0.20	-0.17	0.34
M =	1.40	1.72	2.36	2.25	2.21	1.92	1.00	2.68	2.96	0.88	2.64	2.17
TYPE B												
Cho	M = 3.68		SD = 0.63		df = 23							
	.01 to .05		.06 to .10		-.01 to -.10							
	301.0	301.20	301.22	301.7	301.83	301.50	301.81	301.82	301.6	301.4	HARE-40	ASPERGER'S
r =	0.08	0.23	0.31	-0.21	0.26	-0.11	0.17	0.28	-0.19	0.11	-0.24	0.13
M =	3.28	0.16	1.12	3.63	1.13	0.56	1.83	0.56	0.20	1.00	3.72	0.71
TYPE C												
Cho	M = 2.00		SD = 1.22		df = 23							
	.01 to .05		.06 to .10		-.01 to -.10							
	301.0	301.20	301.22	301.7	301.83	301.50	301.81	301.82	301.6	301.4	HARE-40	ASPERGER'S
r =	0.31	0.43	0.30	0.11	0.03	-0.25	0.54	0.39	0.10	0.42	0.05	0.34
M =	0.52	0.16	0.76	2.54	2.42	3.72	2.96	0.24	0.48	0.36	3.72	1.29

CHARACTER DYSFUNCTION:

TYPE A:

Significant Positive Correlations in rank order: 301.82 Avoidant Personality Disorder ($r = +0.64$) and traits of Asperger's Disorder ($r = +0.34$).

Significant Negative Correlations in rank order: 301.7 Antisocial Personality Disorder ($r = -0.52$).

TYPE B:

Significant Positive Correlations in rank order: None.

Significant Negative Correlations in rank order: None.

TYPE C:

Significant Positive Correlations in rank order: 301.81 Narcissistic Personality Disorder ($r = +0.54$), 301.20 Schizoid Personality Disorder ($r = +0.43$), 301.4 Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder ($r = +0.42$), and traits of 301.82 Avoidant Personality Disorder ($r = +0.39$) and 299.80 Asperger's Disorder ($r = +0.34$).

Significant Negative Correlations in rank order: None.

Analysis: Cho's poor judgment, self-delusion and immature thought were based on simplistic generalizations and discriminations, likely secondary to his social and cognitive isolation and related active avoidance of the normal stresses of life. However, it is Cho's Type C characteristics that reveal the driving force that fueled his pathological thought and conduct. His primary sources of pleasure and comfort were internal rather than external, fantasy rather than reality. In fact, for Cho fantasy was his primary reality and it was in the domain of his imagination that most of his social learning occurred. Cho's imagination was full of self-serving scenarios which predictably became increasingly idiosyncratic, bizarre, and violent.

CHARACTER X DOMAIN DYSFUNCTION:

CHARACTER-DOMAIN DYSFUNCTION																
TYPE A COGNITIVE																
Cho	M = 2.56		SD = 1.33		df = 6						.01 to .05		.06 to .10		-.01 to -.10	
	301.0	301.20	301.22	301.7	301.83	301.50	301.81	301.82	301.6	301.4	HARE-40	ASPERGER'S				
r =	0.22	0.14	-0.11	-0.13	-0.09	-0.06	-0.03	0.78	0.13	-0.07	-0.07	-0.33				
M =	2.33	2.33	3.22	1.78	2.67	2.56	1.89	3.33	3.67	1.89	3.11	2.78				
TYPE B COGNITIVE																
Cho	M = 3.88		SD = 0.35		df = 6						.01 to .05		.06 to .10		-.01 to -.10	
	301.0	301.20	301.22	301.7	301.83	301.50	301.81	301.82	301.6	301.4	HARE-40	ASPERGER'S				
r =	0.49	0.14	-0.24	-0.22	0.19	-0.87	-0.50	0.40	0.20	-0.75	-0.14	-0.31				
M =	3.25	0.13	2.25	3.75	1.50	0.88	2.38	1.13	0.38	1.13	3.88	1.13				
TYPE C COGNITIVE																
Cho	M = 2.13		SD = 0.99		df = 6						.01 to .05		.06 to .10		-.01 to -.10	
	301.0	301.20	301.22	301.7	301.83	301.50	301.81	301.82	301.6	301.4	HARE-40	ASPERGER'S				
r =	0.31	0.76	0.44	0.31	-0.53	-0.29	0.68	0.76	0.31	0.54	0.46	0.56				
M =	0.38	0.25	1.38	1.38	3.13	3.50	3.38	0.13	0.38	0.50	3.88	2.13				

COGNITIVE x TYPE A:

Significant Positive Correlations in rank order: 301.82 Avoidant Personality Disorder (r = +0.78).

Significant Negative Correlations in rank order: None.

COGNITIVE x TYPE B:

Significant Positive Correlations in rank order: None.

Significant Negative Correlations in rank order: 301.50 Histrionic Personality Disorder (r = -0.87) and 301.4 Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder (r = -0.75).

COGNITIVE x TYPE C:

Significant Positive Correlations in rank order: 301.20 Schizoid Personality Disorder (r = +0.76), 301.82 Avoidant Personality Disorder (r = +0.76), and traits of 301.81 Narcissistic Personality Disorder (r = +0.68).

Significant Negative Correlations in rank order: None.

Analysis: Cho was cognitively isolated and actively avoided social interaction and intimacy. His social inhibition was voluntary but over time his social skills relative to his peers diminished, and he no longer had family members, particularly his mother, to anticipate his needs. That is, his fantasies, movies, games and stories increasingly became the source of his reinforcement and “social learning,” and simultaneously, his external environment became less familiar and less supportive of his detached social presentation. His fantasies were markedly self-centered and indifferent to others, suggesting fantasy themes involving absolute, godlike power and control, which in a games and fiction he found exciting and fulfilling. However, cultivating fantasies of power and control at the expense of more normalizing, productive activities inevitably leads to unrealistic and unmet expectations. People who do have the power and control in reality become the enemy --- i.e., the rich, the famous, and the powerful, including those who have the power to make one desire.

TYPE A BEHAVIOR												
Cho	M = 1.50		SD = 1.41		df = 6							
r =	301.0	301.20	301.22	301.7	301.83	301.50	301.81	301.82	301.6	301.4	HARE-40	ASPERGER'S
	-0.15	-0.39	-0.31	-0.82	-0.43	-0.39	-0.27	0.34	0.00	0.00	-0.62	0.24
M =	1.13	1.75	2.50	3.29	2.14	1.75	0.57	2.25	1.75	0.50	2.50	2.33
TYPE B BEHAVIOR												
Cho	M = 3.33		SD = 0.87		df = 6							
r =	301.0	301.20	301.22	301.7	301.83	301.50	301.81	301.82	301.6	301.4	HARE-40	ASPERGER'S
	-0.31	0.29	0.58	-0.34	0.27	0.26	0.64	0.29	-0.58	0.11	-0.41	0.17
M =	2.78	0.11	0.33	3.88	0.88	0.56	1.50	0.11	0.11	0.22	3.67	0.25
TYPE C BEHAVIOR												
Cho	M = 2.13		SD = 1.46		df = 6							
r =	301.0	301.20	301.22	301.7	301.83	301.50	301.81	301.82	301.6	301.4	HARE-40	ASPERGER'S
	0.45	0.24	0.24	0.38	-0.25	0.03	0.69	0.31	0.06	0.52	-0.74	-0.05
M =	0.50	0.13	0.25	3.43	2.43	3.88	2.43	0.38	0.50	0.13	3.63	0.71

BEHAVIOR x TYPE A:

Significant Positive Correlations in rank order: None.

Significant Negative Correlations in rank order: 301.7 Antisocial Personality Disorder (r = -0.82) and 40-point Hare PCL-R (r = -0.62).

BEHAVIOR x TYPE B:

Significant Positive Correlations in rank order: Traits of 301.81 Narcissistic Personality Disorder (r = +0.64).

Significant Negative Correlations in rank order: None.

BEHAVIOR x TYPE C:

Significant Positive Correlations in rank order: Traits of 301.81 Narcissistic Personality Disorder (r = +0.69).

Significant Negative Correlations in rank order: 40-point Hare PCL-R (r = -0.74).

Analysis: Again, it is noteworthy that Cho's errors in judgment and his simplistic generalizations and discriminations were generally not consistent with the characteristics of Antisocial Personality Disorder or a prototypical Psychopath. Similarly, his active use of power and control, including his role playing, passive aggression, and lack of personal responsibility, were more a matter of his self-serving narcissistic nature than primary anti-social characteristics. However, note that these characteristics are not significantly correlated with Schizoid Personality Disorder or Avoidant Personality Disorder.

TYPE A EXISTENTIAL												
Cho	M = 1.63			SD = 1.60				df = 6				
	301.0	301.20	301.22	301.7	301.83	301.50	301.81	301.82	301.6	301.4	HARE-40	ASPERGER'S
r =	0.11	-0.25	0.32	-0.66	0.93	0.60	-0.23	0.68	0.38	0.60	-0.16	0.77
M =	0.63	1.00	1.25	1.88	1.75	1.38	0.38	2.38	3.38	0.13	2.25	1.38

TYPE B EXISTENTIAL												
Cho	M = 3.88			SD = 0.35				df = 6				
	301.0	301.20	301.22	301.7	301.83	301.50	301.81	301.82	301.6	301.4	HARE-40	ASPERGER'S
r =	-0.14	0.22	0.31	0.11	0.00	0.22	-0.17	-0.38	-1.00	0.34	-0.20	-0.14
M =	3.88	0.25	0.88	3.25	1.00	0.25	1.63	0.50	0.13	1.75	3.63	0.75

TYPE C EXISTENTIAL												
Cho	M = 1.78			SD = 1.30				df = 6				
	301.0	301.20	301.22	301.7	301.83	301.50	301.81	301.82	301.6	301.4	HARE-40	ASPERGER'S
r =	0.26	0.35	0.37	0.20	0.64	-0.53	0.38	0.35	0.01	0.46	0.51	0.38
M =	0.67	0.11	0.67	2.89	1.78	3.78	3.00	0.22	0.56	0.44	3.67	1.00

EXISTENTIAL x TYPE A:

Significant Positive Correlations in rank order: 301.83 Borderline Personality Disorder (r = +0.93), 299.80 Asperger's Disorder (r = +0.77), and traits of 301.82 Avoidant Personality Disorder (r = +0.68).

Significant Negative Correlations in rank order: 301.7 Antisocial Personality Disorder (r = -0.66).

EXISTENTIAL x TYPE B:

Significant Positive Correlations in rank order: None.

Significant Negative Correlations in rank order: 301.6 Dependent Personality Disorder (r = -1.00)

EXISTENTIAL x TYPE C:

Significant Positive Correlations in rank order: Traits of 301.83 Borderline Personality Disorder (r = +0.64).

Significant Negative Correlations in rank order: None.

Analysis: Cho's desire for power and control dominated all aspects of his life. Every value and every value judgment were secondary to how they affected his power and control. Gaining and maintaining power and control took priority over all else, including all social relationships. Increasingly, he could only maintain power and control in the domain of his imagination. Increasingly, the self-image he had created was becoming fragmented and his sense of being and becoming was diminishing. He was losing control and he had no constructive focus for the future. Consequently, he conjured a new scenario to exercise power and control, as he had done so many times before --- only this time he acted it out.

SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS:

Reports by Cho's family members indicate that his atypical communication patterns started in early childhood. However, it is clear that he could speak, read, understand the speech of others, and that he was of at least average intelligence. Consequently, his Type A characteristics and related poor judgment are not due to mental retardation. However, regardless of the nature of any underlying communication disorder (e.g., delayed auditory feedback, Autism Spectrum disorder, Paranoid Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder), it is clear that Cho typically chose not to speak (Selective Mutism?).

In addition to communication deficits, Cho's family members reported an early history of angry acting-out. Early onset of overt noncompliance, active avoidance of social interaction, and angry acting-out when pressed for interaction or compliance, makes for an explosive combination --- a combination predisposed to both self-injury and "defensive" aggression. Unintentional or undue reinforcement of such patterns during the developmental years can have lifelong effects, strengthening maladaptive patterns. Continuing such patterns into adulthood insures increasing social and cognitive isolation and an increasing absence of reinforcement for such self-serving patterns.

Cho's behavioral strategies (e.g., noncompliance) and related tactics (e.g., silence) were his primary method of establishing and maintaining interpersonal control, serving to establish positive reinforcement (pleasure/comfort) and negative reinforcement (relief from pain/discomfort). Cho's nonverbal escape/avoidance tendencies were strengthened with each success (e.g., avoiding performance demands). Cho's silence also elicited interpersonal interaction and established him as the focus of attention and control, from health practitioners to religious leader to educators. Such *dually functioning* behaviors ("silence" functioning to avoid unwanted performance demands and to elicit interpersonal interaction) are doubly potent and gain in strength, intensity, and frequency as they are used across time and circumstance. Such behavioral strategies and tactics become increasingly resistant to extinction (less likely to change due to altered circumstances and related consequences) and increasingly likely to result in violent acting-out when expected consequences are not forthcoming.

Unfortunately, the more successful such dually functioning (dually potent) behaviors are, the less likely more adaptive alternative strategies and tactics will be learned ... and the more likely imposed change will result in violence.

Cho certainly had paranoid characteristics but he was not a prototypical criminal or psychopath, and did not evidence characteristics consistent with Asperger's Disorder. He had a lifelong history of choosing not to speak, at least until he decided to die. He was a social misfit and became a mass murderer. He may have been psychotic when he died.

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¹ *American Psychiatric Association: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, Text Revision.* Washington, DC, American Psychiatric Association, 2000.

² Hare, R.D. (1991) *The Psychopathy Checklist-Revised.* Toronto, Canada: Multi-Health Systems.