

# The Architecture of Behaviour

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Psychological Approaches to Understanding Individual Deviance and Corrections.

*Moving beyond the environment to decode the inner mechanics of the human mind.*

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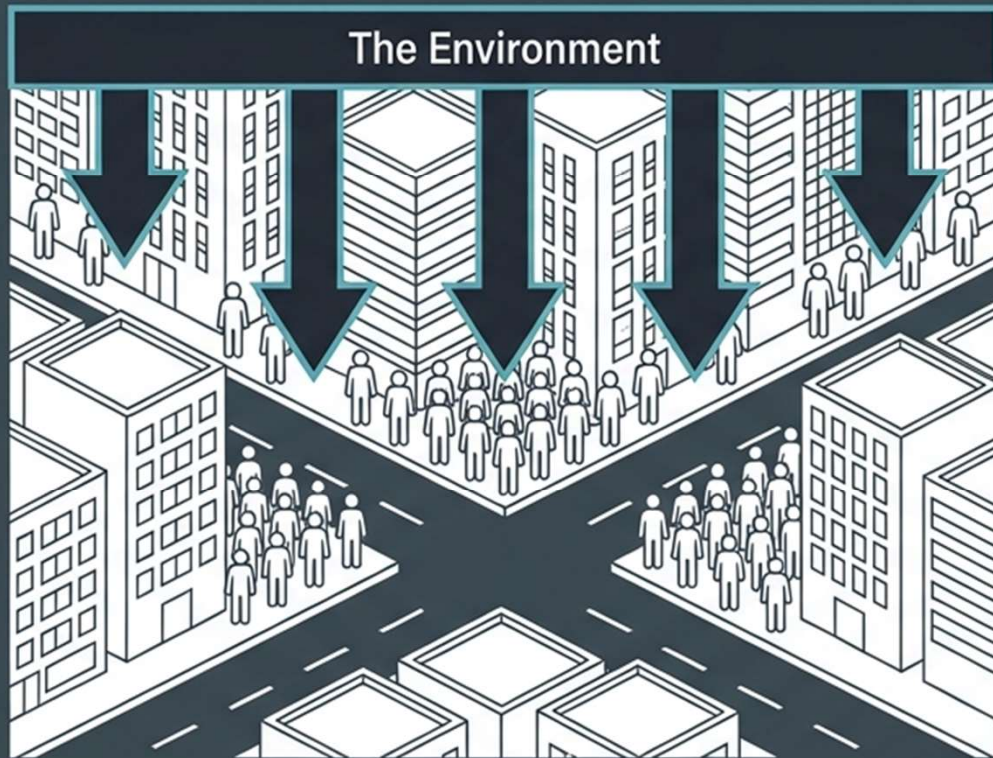
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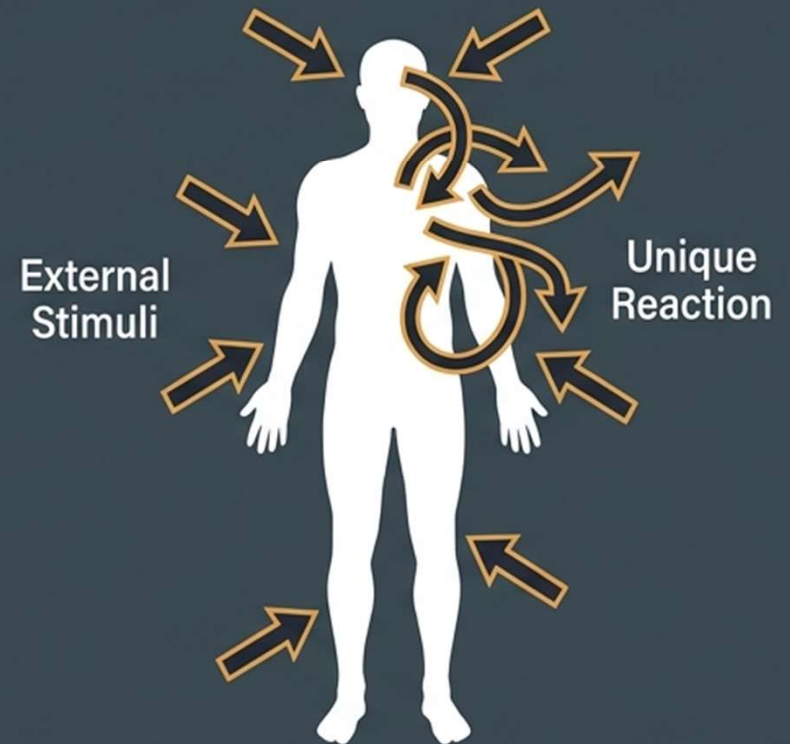
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## SOCIOLOGY



Views the environment as the root source of crime and deviance.

## PSYCHOLOGY



Views the environment merely as a trigger. The individual's personality comes first.

**The Core Paradigm Shift: Deviance is the individual's unique reaction to pressure, stimuli, and stress, rather than an inevitable environmental outcome.**

# The Four Lenses of Psychology



## Experimental

- Focuses on observable, measurable behaviour, operant conditioning, and learned responses.
- Views humans through the strict mechanics of reward and punishment.



## Gestalt

- Focuses on macro-psychology and whole patterns.
- Driven by the tenet that adults react to total environments, seeking insight and closure rather than isolated stimuli.



## Clinical

- Focuses on inner emotional conflict, defence mechanisms, and unmet needs.
- Emerged prominently post-WWII as a critical bridge between psychology and psychiatry.



## Developmental

- Focuses on maturation stages, biological growth curves, and readiness.
- Tracks the complex transition from total dependence to self-direction over time.

# Myth-Busting: Intelligence & Crime

## The Historical Flaw (1914)

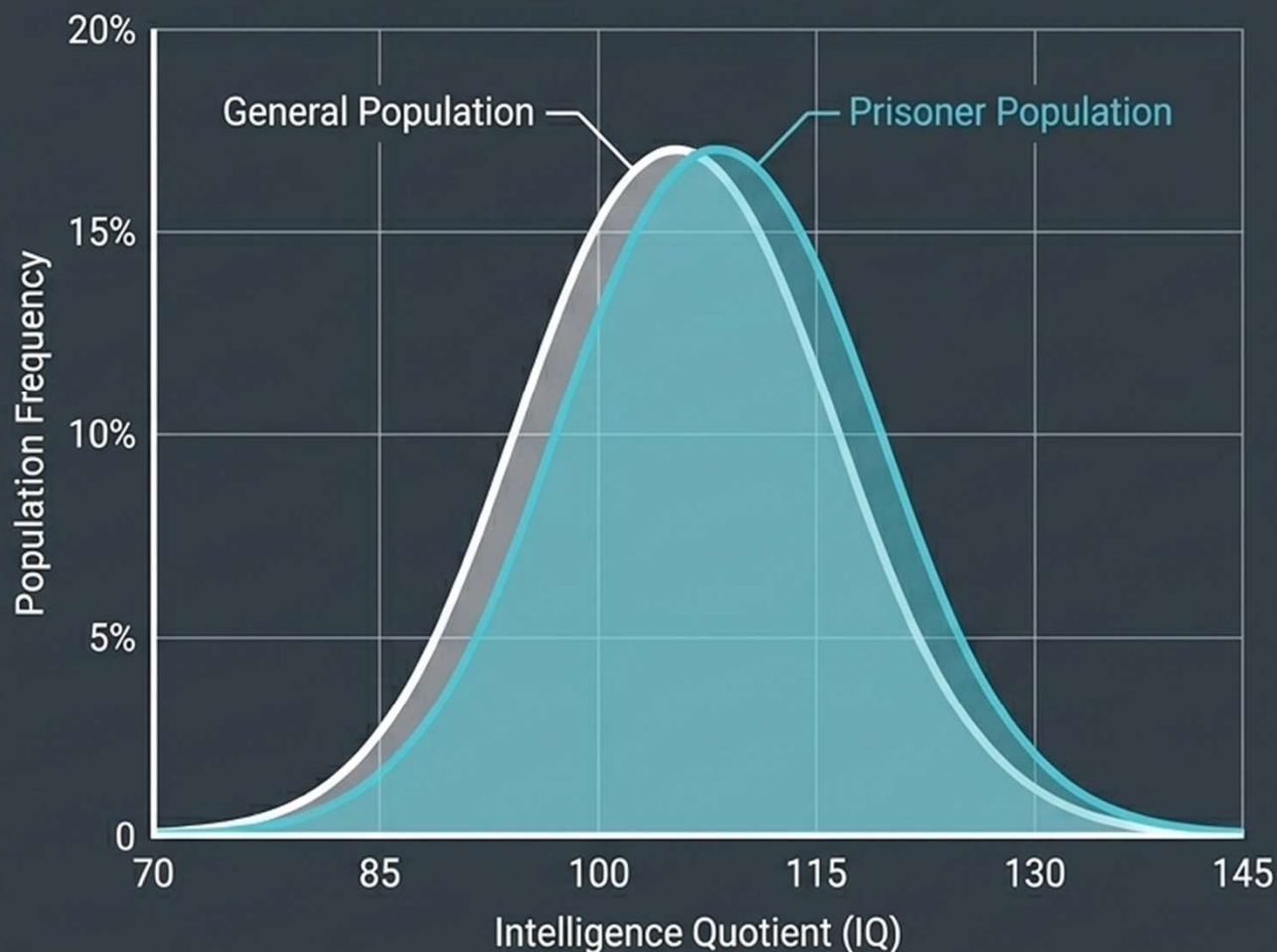
Early, unstandardised studies falsely claimed up to 89% of criminals were feeble-minded.

## The Reality (1926–Present)

Standardised comparisons, beginning with Murchison's 1926 study of US Army draft tests versus state prisoners, proved there is no significant difference in intelligence.

## The Takeaway

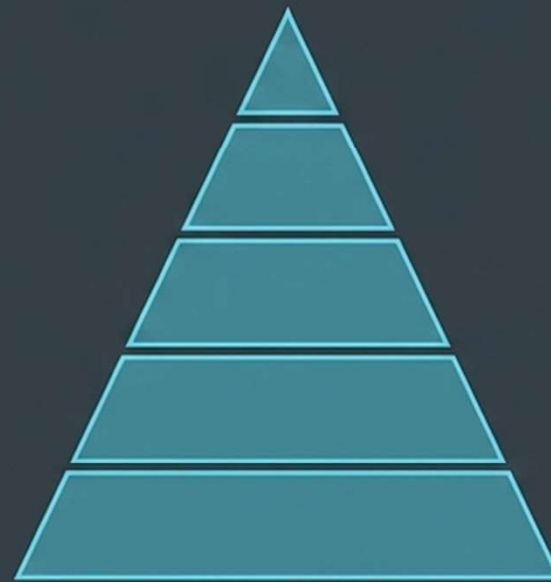
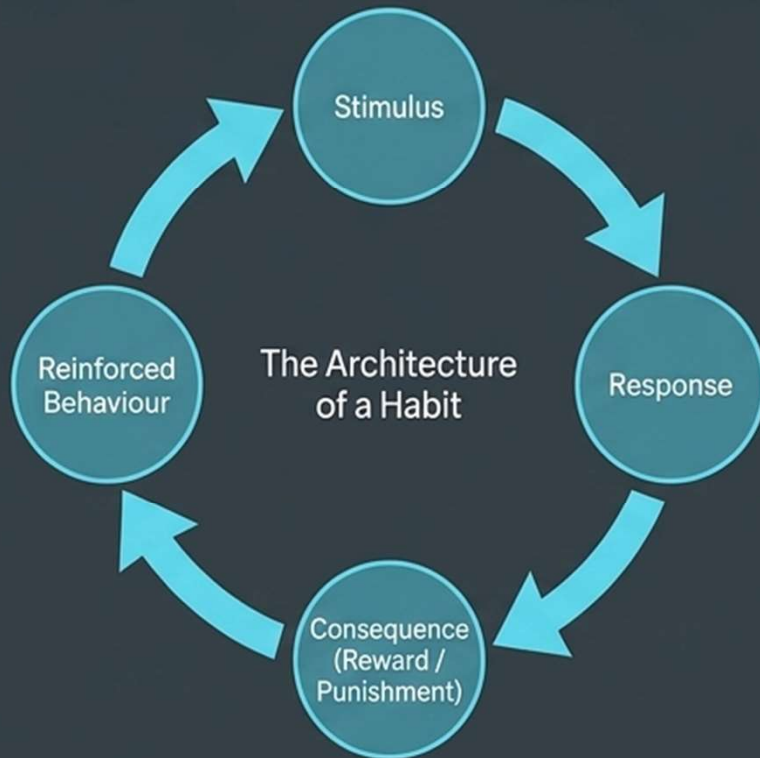
Crime is not a byproduct of low intellect. Gifted individuals simply use their high intelligence in deviant directions; ability does not dictate morality.



Data Source: Meta-analysis of Intelligence Distribution in Criminal Populations

# The Experimental Lens: Conditioning & Habit

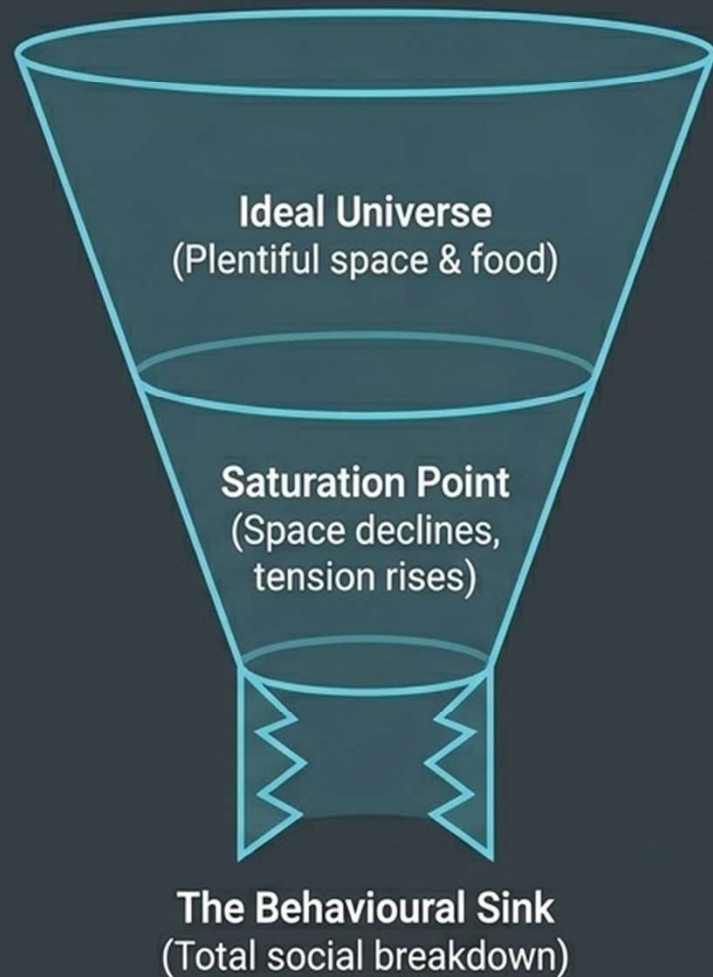
**Operant Conditioning (B.F. Skinner):** Behaviour is strengthened or weakened strictly by its consequences. Individuals learn from a blank slate via external pressures.



Just as Masur and Allee observed social hierarchies in flocks, humans establish intense social status hierarchies.

In ghettos and prisons, individuals forced to the bottom internalise loser self-concepts, driving habitual deviance.

# The Pathology of Overcrowding



## The Calhoun & Emlen Experiments (1968-1973)

When mice populations exceeded physical space limits—even with infinite food provided—the social order collapsed. Rearing of young ceased, females became hyper-aggressive, and cannibalism occurred.

## Correctional Reality

This precisely mirrors the psychological strain in urban ghettos and overcrowded modern prisons. When survival-of-the-fittest values are forced by spatial density, severe deviance is an inevitable, biological response.

# Behaviour Modification: The Situational Flaw



## The Catch

It is highly effective in authoritative, heavily controlled settings (e.g., prisons) but often fails catastrophically upon release.

## The Mechanism

Residents earn privileges by modelling acceptable behaviour. It assumes all behaviour results entirely from external forces.

## The Situational Reality

Rewards for good behaviour vanish when a youth returns to a gang-controlled neighbourhood where paying milk money to a protection gang results in getting mugged anyway.

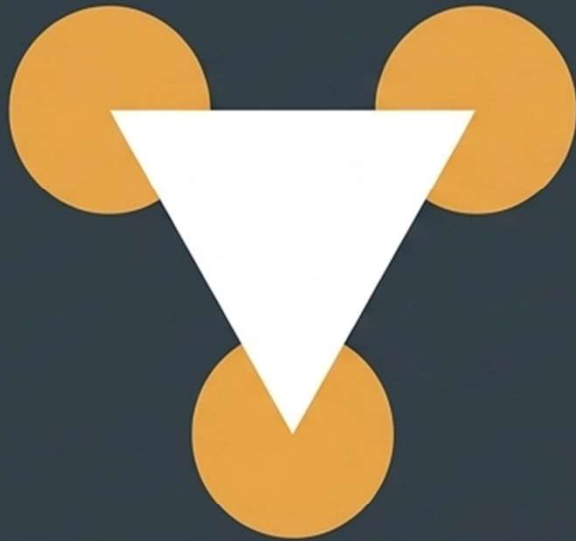
Punishment and reward are strictly situational.

# Diagnostic Matrix: Quay's Differential Treatment

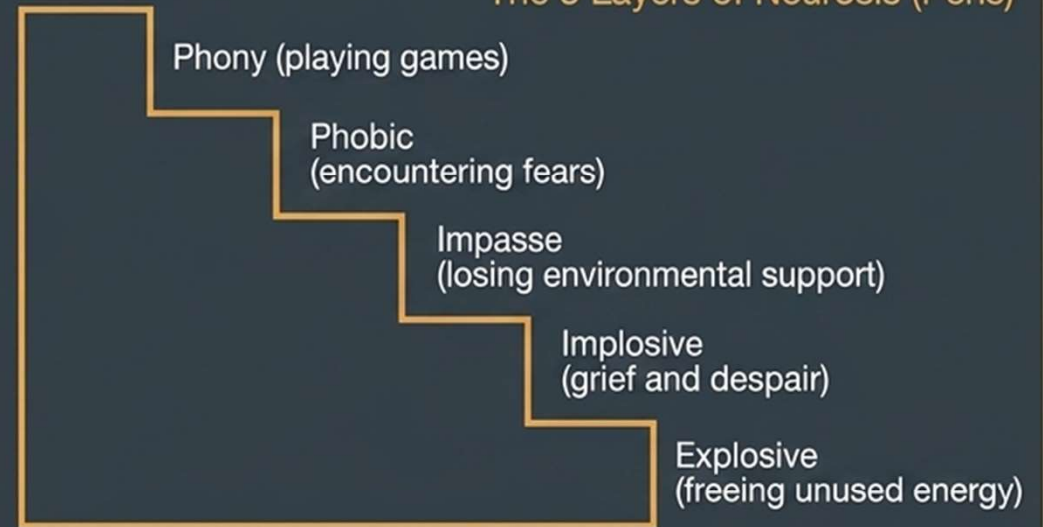
Behavioural Profile	Required Treatment Protocol
<b>Inadequate-Immature</b> Preoccupied, childish, irresponsible.	Permit physical and psychological space to grow up.
<b>Neurotic-Conflicted</b> Anxious, guilty, depressed, inferior.	Perceptive involvement; help them understand their inner weaknesses and strengths.
<b>Unsocialised-Aggressive</b> Manipulative, rejects authority, troublemaker.	Tough-minded, highly controlled environment; fiercely resist all manipulation.
<b>Socialised/Subcultural</b> Gang-affiliated, fiercely peer-loyal.	Firm control from respected adults to overwrite gang-influenced value systems.
<b>Subcultural-Immature</b> Inadequate, severely disorganised family background.	Flexible, positive relationship-building to overcome a deep distrust of adults.

# The Gestalt Lens: Insight & Closure

**Core Tenet:** The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Adults react to total patterns, not isolated stimuli. Therapy aims to integrate split parts of the personality.



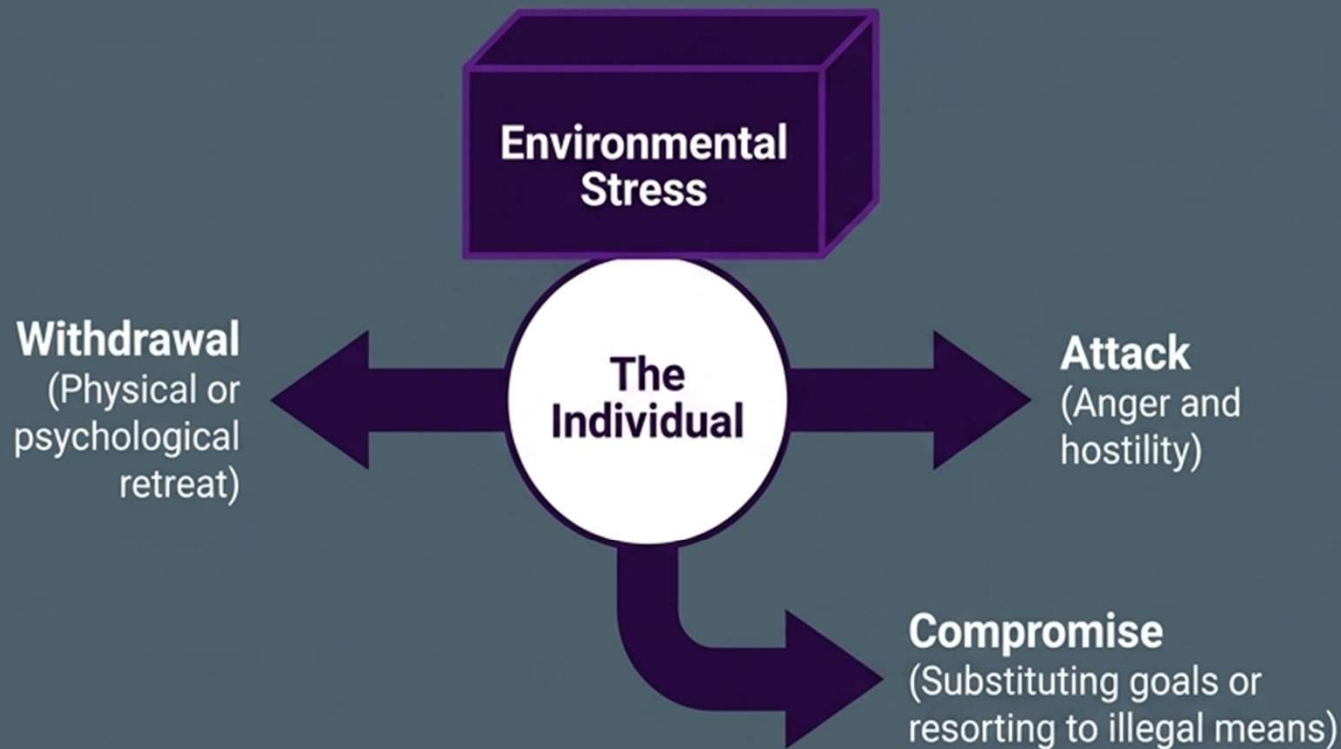
## The 5 Layers of Neurosis (Perls)



**Therapeutic Objective:** Replacing external environmental support with internal self-support until the subject finally gets the picture.

# The Clinical Lens: Coping With Stress

**The Clinical View:** Internal stress and unmet emotional needs are the primary motivators for deviant behaviour.



## The Dyssocial Offender

Frequently, deviance is not complete alienation, but a highly dysfunctional relationship with society.

It is learned by adapting to micro-cultures where the only successful, visible role models are criminals.

# The Ego's Armour: Defence Mechanisms

Mechanisms used to reduce cognitive dissonance and protect personal worth.



## Quadrant 1: Distortion

**Mechanisms:** Denial, Rationalisation, Projection.

**Insight:** Highly common in prisons—inmates project blame entirely onto society, fixating on the caught vs. the uncaught.

## Quadrant 2: Redirection

**Mechanisms:** Sublimation, Displacement, Acting Out.

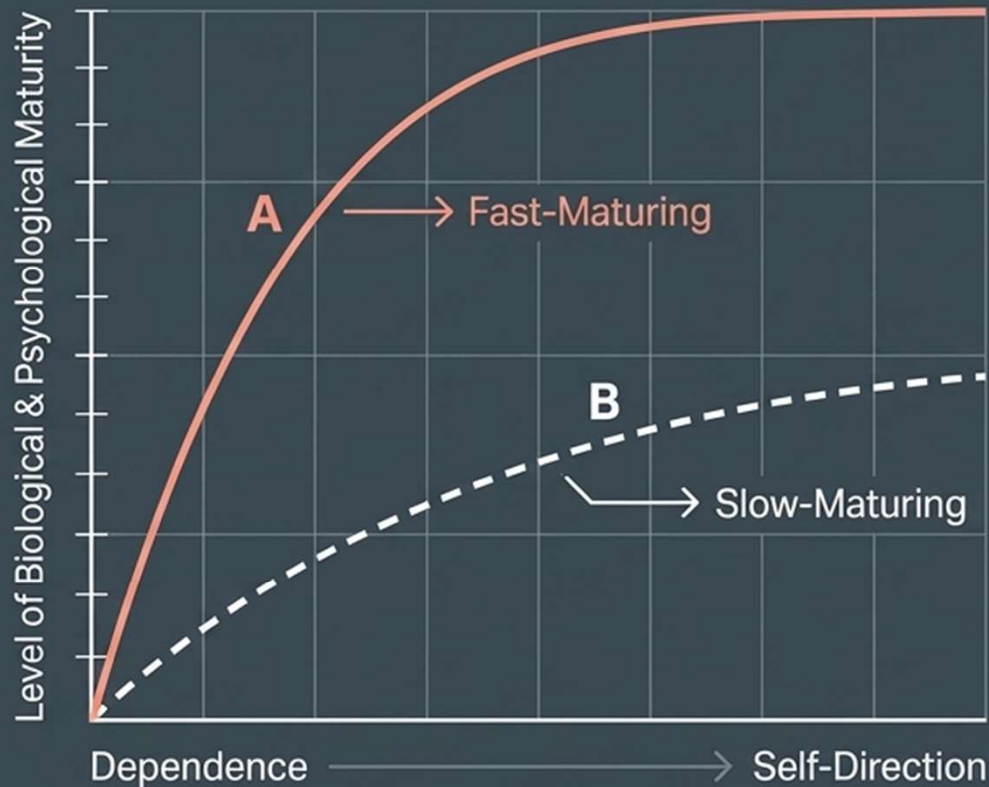
**Insight:** Directing forbidden or hostile desires into violently unacceptable channels; incredibly common in juvenile delinquency.

## Quadrant 3: Retreat

**Mechanisms:** Regression, Fantasy, Emotional Insulation.

**Insight:** Withdrawing to lower developmental levels or pure passivity to prevent further psychological hurt.

# The Developmental Lens: Trajectories of Maturation



## The Maturation Journey

True maturity requires shifting from the Pleasure Principle to the Reality Principle, and from amoral self-centredness to moral other-centredness.

## Correctional Impact

Differential rates of biological and psychological development create unique legal and social vulnerabilities.

## The Risk Divergence

Fast-developing youths face premature social and sexual pressures. Slow-developing youths experience systemic academic failure, frequently drifting into juvenile courts.

# Case Synthesis: The Birdman of Alcatraz

Robert Stroud: A violent killer who spent 54 years in prison, later becoming a world-renowned avian pathologist.



## Developmental Lens

Reared by a hostile, abusive father. Completely failed to form a positive self-image or moral compass during childhood maturation.

## Clinical Lens

Exhibited extreme projection, hostility, and a total inability to communicate with or tolerate human authority figures.

## Experimental Lens

Decades of extreme isolation removed normal social conditioning. His expert care for birds became his singular source of positive operant reinforcement.

# The Ethical Frontier: The Limits of Psychology



## The Controversy

Federal prison programmes (like the 1973 START program) faced massive backlash, strikes, and legal challenges over forced behavioural modifications labelled as Orwellian brainwashing.

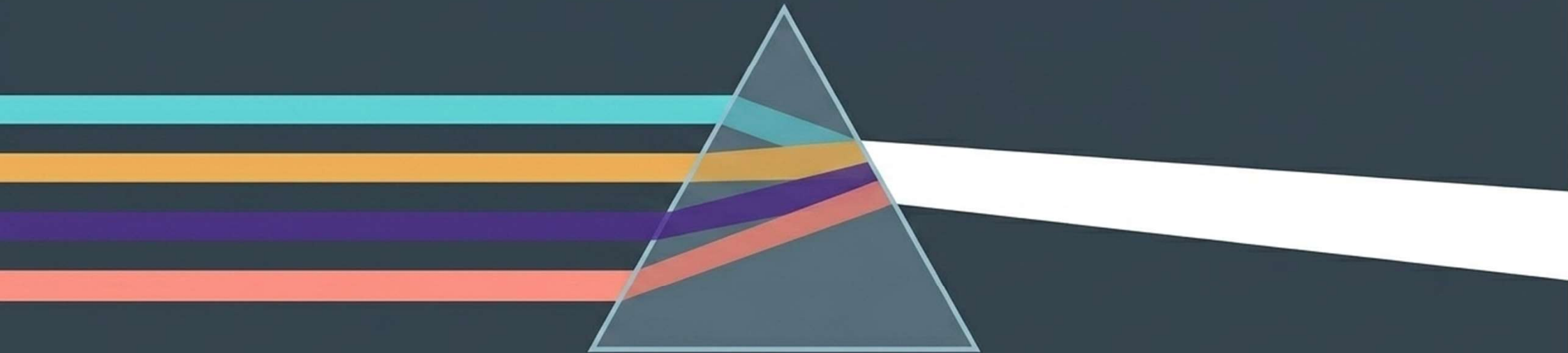
## The Human Element

Unlike laboratory mice, human behaviour intrinsically involves abstract symbols, values, and ideologies. People are not blank slates.

## The Boundary

Science can map conditioning and manipulate behaviour, but jurisprudence and informed consent dictate the absolute limits of state coercion.

# The Integrated Human



**Summary:** Meaningful correctional psychology cannot rely on a single methodology. It requires the precision of experimental conditioning, the whole-person context of Gestalt, the empathetic probing of clinical work, and the biological timeline of developmental psychology.

**Final Takeaway:** Ultimately, helping individuals requires providing security, respect, and understanding. Only by dissipating disabling emotions can the individual successfully adjust to the complexities of a conforming society.