

# Self-reported anger among individuals with an autism spectrum disorder detained in high security psychiatric care: do preoccupations have an influence?

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David Murphy

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## Abstract

The State Trait Anger Expression Inventory (STAXI 2) is a widely used measure of the experience and expression of anger within forensic populations. Despite anger expression difficulties being common among individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), little is known as to how those who offend perform in the STAXI 2. In exploring the application of the STAXI 2 to individuals with an ASD, two groups detained in high security psychiatric care were compared. Results suggest that whilst those with offending unconnected to a preoccupation have more complex psychiatric presentations, MANOVAs revealed no differences in demographic and cognitive characteristics. Within the Autism Spectrum Quotient, those with offending linked to a preoccupation score higher in the attending to details scale and in the STAXI 2 reported significantly lower levels of 'anger expression out'. It is proposed that an examination of anger is useful for all individuals with an ASD who offend.