

Why Children Kill:

Q & A with Cognitive Neuophysicist, Mark Evan Furman

Lurlena Burnett—Bethlehem Press—October 11, 2007

1. What is Mind Imaging?

Mind Imaging is a neuro-cognitive feedback technology born from the science of Cognitive Neurophysics that turns the conscious mind into a programming window and an ordinary piece of paper into a touch-screen operating system for the brain. With it we can make rapid, reliable, measurable, lasting & painless change in thought, emotion and behavior patterns that once looked impossible to change. Addictions, OCD, Depression, Grief, health problems, money problems, relationship problems all can be modeled with the technology and improved rapidly.

2. What are the tools needed to display an image of the mind?

Only 4 tools are needed:

1. 18x24 Artist's Sketch Pad
2. 4 extra-fine point colored markers
3. stop watch
4. calculator

3. How is mind imaging different from a brain scan?

A brain scan helps us correlate the anatomical and biological structure of the brain to the function of the mind to uncover the cause of cognitive problems. Mind Imaging helps us correlate neuro-physical structure and functioning of the brain to the function of the mind to uncover the cause of mental disorder and any thought, emotion, or behavior pattern that may be causing a result in our life that we want to change.

4. Would a map of the human genome system give different information from an image of the mind?

Yes, a map of the genome gives us evolutionarily stored information that correlates with growth, development and some basic behavioral probabilities like fight, flight and freeze reaction options in response to the brain state of fear. An image of the mind gives us real-time information about the mind's reaction options in any given situation and reveals the connectivity between thought, emotion, behavior and external stimuli causing those reaction options. Mind imaging shows us how the immediate environment (our past experience) has linked thought, emotion and behavior reaction options into a structure that becomes automatically triggered and produces results in our life that we want to change.

6. What signs appear on the image of the mind of a child about to kill?

Mind imaging would reveal:

1. The **balance** between positive and negative brain states (which can reveal neuro-peptide imbalances in the brain leading to criminal or violent behavior).
2. The **probability** of each one of those brain states occurring in response to different events that the child is regularly exposed to in their daily environment. The specific pre-programmed violent reaction options most probable in every brain state such as fear, stress, depress, anger and rage.
3. What **reaction options** (behaviors, decisions, memories and perceptions) are most likely to occur given each brain state, allowing us to **predict** consequences of continued exposure to certain environments and ultimately **prevent** tragedies by reprogramming these reaction options in advance of the situations occurring to healthier, safer choices.

7. How can we use this technology to stop incidents of school violence before they happen?

See answers to question 6.

8. Can mind imaging explain how the desire and the ability to kill develop in the minds of youths?

The Desire to kill can develop if the thoughts of killing are linked to a positive outcome or consequence that a person is seeking, such as justice, elimination of personal fear or humiliation from peer pressure. **The ability** to kill develops when specific violent reaction options are pre-programmed in to certain brain states like fear, rage, humiliation. This can occur as a result of living in a real life-threatening environment or virtual environments like movies, television and video games. Nerve cells don't care about content or morality or right and wrong. Nerve cells simply link stimuli in the environment with reaction options of thought, emotion and behavior.

9. What else can you tell us to explain why some children kill?

Often a child that kills doesn't necessarily intend to kill. Some say that the Success tech shooting was pre-meditated. Just because a child straps a gun on his leg doesn't mean that the act of shooting was planned in advance. It is simply one of many reaction options in response to a perceived threat. Because the pulling of the trigger is an irreversible event that can be prepared by the pre-motor cortex and executed in under 350 thousandths of a second and the threshold of conscious awareness in

550 milliseconds, the mind finds out about what the hand did too late to take back the bullet. The "moral" mind isn't given sufficient time to veto the act. Once the act is perceived by the conscious mind and the consequences are predicted, the brain of a child will often transition to extreme panic or terror and the only reaction option left may be to kill themselves to avoid the consequences. This too is an irreversible act that occurs in less than 350 milliseconds.