

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790004803321
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Titolo	The mind of the criminal : the role of developmental social cognition in criminal defense law // Reid Griffith Fontaine [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2012
ISBN	1-107-22413-6 1-139-23413-7 1-280-48556-6 1-139-23260-6 9786613580542 1-139-23037-9 1-139-22893-5 1-139-04406-0 1-139-23184-7 1-139-23338-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xv, 264 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Classificazione	LAW026000
Disciplina	345.73/05044
Soggetti	Defense (Criminal procedure) - United States Insanity (Law) - United States Criminal psychology - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Machine generated contents note: 1. A meeting of developmental social cognition and criminal jurisprudence and law; 2. Developmental social cognition and antisocial behavior: theory and science; 3. Substandard rational capacity and criminal responsibility; 4. Underdeveloped rationality and wrongdoing in youth; 5. Moral subrationality and the propensity for wrongdoing; 6. Provocation interpretational bias and heat of passion homicide; 7. Reacting to perceived threats: mistaken self-defense and duress; 8. Developmental social cognition, the effects of chronic abuse and trauma, and reactive homicide; 9. Toward a more psychologically-informed approach to social rationality and excusing conditions in criminal law.

Sommario/riassunto

In American criminal law, if a defendant demonstrates that they lack certain psychological capabilities, they may be excused of blame and punishment for wrongdoing. However, criminal defense law often fails to consider the developmental science of individual differences in ability and functioning that may inform jurisprudential issues of rational capacity and responsibility in criminal law. This book discusses the excusing nature of a range of both traditional and non-traditional criminal law defenses and questions the structure of these defenses based on scientific findings from social and developmental psychology. This book explores how research on individual differences in the development of social perception, judgment and decision making explain why some youths and adults develop psychological tendencies that favor criminal behavior, and considers how developmental science can guide the understanding of criminal excuses and affirmative defense law.
