



Octavio Choi, MD, PhD

Clinical Associate Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Bio

BIO

Dr. Choi is a forensic psychiatrist and clinical associate professor of psychiatry. He holds an MD in psychiatry and a PhD in neuroscience. As Training Director in the Program in Psychiatry and the Law, he is helping establish the first forensic psychiatry fellowship program at the Stanford School of Medicine. In addition, he provides consultation services for interventional psychiatrists and therapists as well as for attorneys and the court system.

As a forensic psychiatrist, Dr. Choi specializes in neurolaw, an emerging interdisciplinary field that studies the use and misuse of neuroscience-based evidence in the courtroom. His research interests include the use of functional brain imaging to discern mental states (e.g. lie detection, pain assessment), and the neural basis for moral decision making (e.g. defects in moral reasoning brain centers giving rise to psychopathy). A central question he considers is: how do advances in our knowledge of the neural basis of behavior change perceptions of how offenders should be punished? He has testified as a court-appointed expert, as well as for the prosecution and defense, in many high-profile and complex cases involving psychiatric, neurologic, medical, and medication-related legal claims.

Dr. Choi's clinical interests include neuromodulatory approaches to treat psychiatric illness, such as the use of transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) to treat major depression. He is part of the interventional psychiatry group of Stanford Medicine, conducting clinical work and research to advance the power, precision, and scope of neuromodulation.

Dr. Choi is an experienced public speaker, and has given a number of talks to lay and professional audiences on neurolaw, the neuroscience of psychopathy, and the neuroscience of moral decision-making. He is a featured TEDx speaker on the topic "Can Neuroscience Eradicate Psychopathy?"

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Clinical Associate Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Director of Training, Program in Psychiatry and the Law, (2019- present)
- Affiliate Faculty, Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute, (2019- present)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Medical Scientist Training Program, NIH (federally-funded MD/PhD award) (1994 - 2004)
- Summer Research Scholar, Mind and Life Institute (2006)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Fellow, American Psychiatric Association (2019 - present)

- Associate Editor, Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (2018 - present)
- Former Chair, Forensic Neuropsychiatry Committee, American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (2015 - 2018)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania , Forensic Psychiatry, Neurolaw (2012)
- Psychiatry residency, UCLA-Neuropsychiatric Institute , Psychiatry (2008)
- PhD, University of California, San Diego , Neuroscience (2004)
- MD, University of California, San Diego (2004)
- BS, Stanford University , Symbolic Systems (Computational Neuroscience) (1992)

LINKS

- TEDx talk: Can Neuroscience Eradicate Psychopathy?: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RB-qhZI_qLo

Research & Scholarship

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Adolescence
- Brain and Learning Sciences
- Child Development
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Early Childhood
- Legal Issues
- Lifelong Learning
- Philosophy
- Poverty and Inequality
- Science Education
- Technology and Education

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Belonging, Therapeutic Landscapes, and Networks: Implications for Mental Health Practice** *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*
Tacker, K., Choi, O.
2019; 47 (3): 388-390
- **What Neuroscience Can and Cannot Answer.** *The journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*
Choi, O. S.
2017; 45 (3): 278-85
- **Neuroimaging and lie detection: ready for court?** *Psychiatric Expert Testimony*
Choi, O.
Oxford University Press.2015; 1: 84-96
- **Adjudicating Dangerous and Incompetent Defendants: Civil or Criminal?** *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*
Choi, O., Weiss, K.
2012; 40 (2): 279-281