IB Psychology: Topic Brain & Behaviour 🡪 Content: Neurotransmission

Crockett et al (2010), text p67-68

**Aim:** to invest. effect of serotonin (inhib NT) on pro-social beh (positive actions – those for the good of people)

Do we choose positive actions, or are we ‘wired chemically’ to them?

**Procedure/method:** (lab exp)

* 30 volunteers; recruited (26yrs)
* RM design (2 groups go through 2 conditions)
* C1: part’s took dose **citalopram** (SSRI, blocks re-uptake of ser. 🡪 more available at synaptic gap)
* C2 (control): placebo
* Double blind 🡪 part’s didn’t know what they took; exp’s didn’t know what part’s took
* After part’s took drug/placebo, they were given moral scenarios.

Focus Work:

1. What is the difference b/w ‘personal’ and ‘impersonal’ condition?
2. Why do you think it’s harder for people to physically push the man to stop the trolley in comparison with pulling a lever?
3. What result did researchers find in C1?
4. What else do you think can mediate (effect/influence) this decision, aside from a dose of SSRI?
5. Review GRAVE/MAGEC below and get ready to explain ONE CT comment you feel is most relevant.

Generalizability:

Reliable:

Application:

Valid:

Ethics:

Method:

Alternate explanation:

Gender:

E: as above ☺

Culture: