The association between various forms of mental disorder and violence has long been a matter of debate. In recent years, researchers have focused their attention on the violence risk attributable to specific forms of mental disorder. I will begin by describing the results of a major meta-analysis of studies examining the psychosis-violence link, presenting an overall summary of the magnitude of the association and identifying important moderating factors. Next, I will outline various models that have been proposed to explain the observed association and critically evaluate them. Finally, I will discuss the implications of research for delivery of services to people suffering from psychosis in mental health and criminal justice settings.

Stephen D. Hart, PhD, is a founding Director of ProActive ReSolutions Inc., and heads ProActive’s Threat Assessment Stream. He is a Professor of Psychology and a member of the Mental Health, Law, and Policy Institute at Simon Fraser University in Canada. He is also a Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Bergen in Norway.
Dr. Hart’s work focuses on clinical-forensic assessment in criminal and civil settings, and especially on the assessment of violence risk and the assessment of psychopathic personality disorder. He is co-author of more than 150 articles, chapters, and books and more than 300 conference presentations. He has served as President of the American Psychology-Law Society (Division 41 of the American Psychological Association), is Editor of the Journal of Threat Assessment and Management, and is a Director of the Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals.

Dr. Hart has received numerous awards for his work, including most recently the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals. He has conducted more than 300 workshops around the world.