

# Andrew Flescher

## Dealing With Satan's Minions

To what extent can psychopaths be (or act) otherwise? Evidence has recently emerged in the fields of neurology and psychology which suggests that psychopathic behavior is a predictable and scarcely preventable manifestation of a damaged brain, revealed by callous and unemotional traits detectable in children even at a very young age. These findings have re-awakened age-old discussions about the relationship between free will and the commission of terrible wrongdoing. This talk will present and evaluate this new “Manichean” challenge to standard accounts of evil that tend to rely on, among other things, a robust sense of personal responsibility.

**Andrew Flescher** is an Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine and English at Stony Brook University, where he serves on the Hospital Ethics Committee and Organ Donor Council. He is the author of several articles on moral psychology and health care ethics and the author of three books: *Heroes, Saints, and Ordinary Morality*, *The Altruistic Species: Scientific, Philosophical, and Religious Perspectives of Human Benevolence*, and *Moral Evil*. He is currently preparing a fourth book, *Closing the Gap: The Organ Donor Crisis in America*.

