

Prevalence of ICD-10 pedophilia in a Danish sample of sexual offenders

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Introduction: Identifying subgroups of child molesters with an underlying pedophilic preference is important as pedophilia is a significant risk marker of sexual reoffending. However, there is a general lack of knowledge about the prevalence of ICD-10 pedophilia (F65.4) in sexual offenders.

Aim: The aim of this study was to investigate the prevalence of clinical ICD-10 pedophilia in a sample of sexual offenders (N=414).

Methods: The sample was evaluated for treatment suitability between 01.01.2006 to 31.12.2009 in a national prospective multicenter cohort study. The ICD-10 diagnosis (WHO, 1993) was given by a psychiatrist based on a clinical interview and questionnaire regarding psychosocial and criminal characteristics.

Results: The sample included all types of sexual offenders, herein 181 child molesters. Of the total cohort (N=414), 19% (N=79) had a clinical ICD-10 diagnosis of pedophilia. In the 181 child molesters, 44% had the diagnosis. Sexual offenders diagnosed with pedophilia had victimized significantly more children and significantly more boys compared to sexual offenders not diagnosed with pedophilia.

Conclusion: The results display an unexpectedly high prevalence of pedophilia in a Danish context, but comparable to findings of DSM-pedophilia in North American samples. Unfortunately, the interrater reliability and validity of the diagnosis was not examined.

The landscape of human sexuality – Modelling distances among various arousal patterns using a sociomapping technique in online representative Czech sample

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Introduction: We tend to think about paraphilic and normophilic patterns of sexual arousal as being strictly separated, yet the actual degree of „separatedness“ is unknown. In our research, we attempted to model relative distances among patterns and create a probabilistic landscape of arousal.

Methods: We collected data on sexual arousal from 5023 Czech men and 5021 Czech women via online representative quota sampling. Examined patterns of sexual arousal involved: consensual teleiophilic heterosexuality (Het), consensual teleiophilic homosexuality (Hom), beating and torture (Beat), humiliation (Humil), pedophilia (Pedo), hebephilia (Hebe), autogynephilia (Autogyn), cross-dressing (Transvest), fetishism (Fet), exhibitionism (Exhib), voyeurism (Voy), frottage (Frott), non-consensual immobilization (Immob), biastophilia (Biast) and zoophilia (Zoo). Relative distances among arousal patterns were modelled by sociomapping (a method of visualization of relational data) (Bahbouh & Bahbouh, 2005).

Results: Six main clusters of arousal were revealed - Het, Hom, Biast, Beat, Zoo, Pedo in men and Het, Beat, Biast, Zoo, Hebe, Pedo in women. Unlike in men, Het and Hom arousal patterns were not separate in women. In both sexes, Het cluster subsumed Voy, Frott, Exhib and Fetish and there were intermediate patterns located on the border between the most prevalent Het cluster and other clusters. Those were Hebe, Autogyn/Transvest and Humil.

Conclusions: Our analysis revealed six main clusters of arousal in both sexes which were connected to each other via intermediate arousal patterns. Clustering was com-

parable in men and women, with the exception of the Hom pattern which constituted a separate cluster in men but was a part of the Het cluster in women.

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Treatment of juveniles who have sexually offended: A RCT-validation of an outpatient treatment program based on social skills training vs. specific relapse prevention techniques

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Evidence for the effectiveness of specialized treatment programs for juveniles who have sexually offended (JSO) is limited. We developed the “therapy program for adequate sexual behaviors” (ThePaS) and examined its effects on mental health and offense-related risk factors comparing two versions: ThePaS-I (including specific relapse prevention techniques) vs. ThePaS-II (including socio-emotional skills training). Sixty-four JSO from Switzerland were randomly assigned to ThePaS-I (n = 35, M(age) = 16.07 years) or ThePaS-II (n = 29 JSO, M(age) = 16.29 years). Self-reported mental health problems and several delinquency risk factors were assessed before treatment, shortly after treatment and 12 months later. Moreover, self-rated treatment satisfaction, therapist-reported treatment integrity, and recidivism risk (J-SOAP-II) were considered as well as sexual, non-sexual violent, and general recidivism based on official registers and file information. Self-reported mental health changes were in favor of ThePaS-II compared to ThePaS-I. However, JSO in ThePaS-I showed lower rates of sexual re-offending (but not general re-offending) after treatment compared to

those in ThePaS-II. Our findings support relapse prevention and, to a lower degree, skills training for JSO treatment in outpatient settings. The findings may encourage further methodologically sound studies to examine different treatment approaches with both juvenile and adult offenders.

Distorted beliefs linked to sexual offending

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Cognitive distortions are considered an important factor in the aetiology and maintenance of sexual offending behaviour. A principal view within the literature is that these distortions arise from underlying distorted core beliefs about the self, others, and the world. There has been much theoretical and empirical work published on this topic. In spite of this, however, it feels like our movement forward in understanding distorted cognition (and its role in sexual offending) has slowed down. This may be because the literature is affected by overlapping concepts, causing the literature to be a confusing landscape to navigate. It could also be due to our focus on identifying the content of distorted beliefs. This is problematic when we consider the array (and interrelation) of constructs that make up ‘what we think’ (e.g., beliefs, attitudes, memories, schemas, state factors), as well as ‘how we think’ (i.e., cognitive processing, decision-making, appraisals). This talk will provide a brief overview of what we know about distorted beliefs, including details of a recent theoretical multi-mechanism theory of cognitive distortions (Szumski, Bartels, Beech, & Fisher, 2018). This will then be followed by a personality-based framework for how we can think about cognition and its relation to sexual offending moving forward. This framework will help consolidate the various aspects of cognition, place it within a fuller understanding of the person as an individual, and potentially guide assessment and therapeutic work.

Experimental investigation of emotion regulation problems in sex offenders against children

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Background & Aim: Despite the prominent role of emotion dysregulation in theoretical accounts of sexual offenders against children (SOCs) (Ward, Beech, 2006; 2016), few studies have examined emotion dysregulation in offenders. This study extends research by providing an experimental investigation of emotion dysregulation among child sexual offenders.

Method: Two experimental measure was used to examine differences between SOCs (n=74), property offenders (n=72) and nonoffenders (n=73). Emotion dysregulation was measured with the Emotion Regulation Difficulty Questionnaire (Gratz & Roemer, 2004) and quasi-experimentally with the PASAT-C (Lejuez, Kahler & Brown, 2003) and the Stop Signal Task (Logan & Cowan, 1984). During the experiments galvanic skin response (GSR) was measured.

Results: SOCs turned out to be characterized by a lower initial level of emotion regulation disturbance than property offenders in experimental measure. No significant differences were found regarding self-report measure. Levels of GSR did not differ between groups. In SOCs GSR was raising in each measurement while in other groups it decreased in last measurement.

Conclusion: Study findings suggest that the main issue in SOCs emotional dysregulation is the impairment of ability to activate adaptive coping strategy when experiencing a stressor which leads to gradual increase of negative emotional arousal.

The development and content of the guided web-based intervention @myTabu for individuals who sexually abused children and individuals who consumed child sexual exploitation material

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Web-based interventions have become increasingly important in the context of psychotherapeutic treatment in recent years. In this talk, the development and content of the guided web-based intervention @myTabu for individuals who sexually abused children (ISAC) and individuals who consumed child sexual exploitation material (ICCSEM) under community supervision will be presented. Past research has identified relevant risk factors for recidivism in persons who sexually offended. Furthermore, it has shown that the treatment of these individuals, especially following cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), can reduce recidivism. Based upon these findings a guided web-based intervention has been developed which focuses on the identified risk factors and follows the principles of CBT with the aim of reducing risk of recidivism. The intervention consists of six modules which form self-contained subject areas addressing overall ten risk factors, e.g., offense-supportive attitudes, sexual preoccupation and lifestyle impulsiveness. Therapeutic techniques used include, for example, cognitive restructuring and motivational interviewing. An implementation of this content with these techniques into an online format has not yet been done in a comparable way and will be further described in this talk.

The importance of the biological and social model for the aetiology of paedophilic interests in child sexual offenders

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Introduction: The theoretical assumptions of the research were based on our own model which main theorems relate to the integrated theory of etiology of sexual offending by Marshall and Barbaree (1990). The aim of this study is to identify the role of temperament, character and experience of sexual socialisation in aetiology of paedophilic interests among child sexual offenders (CSOs).

Methods: Temperament and Character Inventory (Cloninger, et al. 1993) and Questionnaire on Sexual Exploitation in Childhood (Beisert, 2012) were used. Semi structured clinical interview was used to gain information about sexual development of CSOs. Paedophilic interests were assessed with Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interests (Seto, & Lumiere, 2001).

Results: The research group consisted of 262 imprisoned CSOs. The obtained results indicate differences in temperament and character of CSOs with high (4-5 points) and low (0-1 points) SSPI scores. Comparison also showed that CSOs with high SSPI scores were significantly more exposed to sexual abuse during childhood. The statistical analysis also showed significant correlations between the factors distinguished in the proposed research model.

Discussion: Obtained results indicate that in the aetiology of paedophilic interests among CSOs, both biological and social factors, as well as the mutual influence of these factors, are important. Continuation of research in this area is aimed to increase the application possibilities of the obtained model and to identify other factors influencing the development of paedophilic interests in CSOs.

Intergenerational co-occurrence of sexual offending – A case-control study

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Aim: Research strongly suggests that parental criminality is associated with offspring criminal offending. However, less is known about possible familial aggregation of sexual offending. We addressed intergenerational co-occurrence of criminality in children of Danish sexual offenders and controls.

Methods: Sexual offenders convicted following pre-trial forensic psychiatric examination 1980-1992 (n=332) were matched 1:4 on birth year and gender to population controls (n=1,328). We examined familial aggregation in Denmark-born children of sexual offenders (n=267) and control children (n=976) from birth to age 30.

Results: Children of sexual offenders were convicted more often than control children for sexual crime (only males, <2% [n<5] vs. <0.5% [n<5]) and any crime (36% [n=96] vs. 24% [n=235]). Having a parent convicted of sexual crime increased sexual offending risk (odds ratio [OR]=4.4); although not significantly controlling for education with multivariable logistic regression (adjusted OR [aOR]=2.2; 95%CI: 0.5-10.2). However, lower education independently predicted sexual offending.

Further, children of sexual offenders had slightly higher risk of any crime (OR=1.8) also when controlling for male gender and lower education (aOR=1.5, 95%CI: 1.1-2.1). The two covariates both independently forecasted any crime.

Children of sexual offenders have low absolute but increased relative criminality risks; lower education may partly mediate this intergenerational co-occurrence.

Aggressive sexual fantasies as a risk factor for sexual coercion: Replication and further development of an etiological model

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Several risk factors like childhood abuse, psychopathy, aggressive behavior or aggressive sexual fantasies promote the development of sexual coercion. Knight and Sims-Knight (2003, 2004) developed a model to explain the etiology of sexual coercion in men. They replicated it in two samples from the U.S., consisting of N=218 male juvenile sex offenders and N=168 men from the normal population. Since then, attempts to replicate the model in larger samples from different countries were missing so far. Based on a subsample from the Finnish Genetics of Sexuality and Aggression (GSA)-project, consisting of N=3331 men (M_age=26.17 years, SD=4.76), we replicated this model again. The latent structural equation model showed very similar effects as the previous ones. Aggressive sexual fantasies and an antisocial/aggressive personality predicted sexual coercion. In turn, aggressive sexual fantasies were predicted by hypersexuality as well as a callous/unemotional personality. Those effects hold stable, when we integrated further established risk factors for sexual aggression, such as distorted perceptions, rape proclivity, alcohol as well as violent pornography consumption, as proposed by the authors of the original model. In line with recent findings, these results illustrate the importance of aggressive sexual fantasies for the etiology of sexual aggression and highlight factors contributing to aggressive sexual fantasy development.