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*Knut Hermstad, Oddfrid Skorpé Tennfjord,
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SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT IN A LIFESPAN PERSPECTIVE – NEW CHALLENGES FROM SOCIAL MEDIA AND FROM CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

17th Conference of the International Association for the
Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO)

August 30 – September 1, 2023
Trondheim, Norway

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International Association for the
Treatment of Sexual Offenders



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Lilith im Maßregelvollzug

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Ten years of the Swedish telephone help-line project PrevenTell – Lessons learned and future directions

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Background: In 2012, PrevenTell, targeting individuals at risk of committing sexual offences, was launched by the ANOVA clinic, Karolinska University hospital. Previously published data on the help-line users (n = 1573) showed that 92% were men and the median age was 36 years. Almost 70% of the users reported a pattern of compulsive sexual behavior and more than half of the sample reported at least one paraphilic interest. The incidence of life-time self-reported mental health problems was 54%, and 25% reported ongoing suicidal thoughts (Adebahr et al., 2021).

Aim: To identify future directions for PrevenTell.

Methods: Interviews with helpline users were analyzed to identify areas of development.

Results: Identified priority work for PrevenTell was to reach younger individuals and raise awareness about risk factors for sexual violence among health care professionals.

Conclusion: A chat function has been developed in order to reach younger individuals. In addition, a web-based training program has been developed for healthcare professionals to help them identify and make an initial assessment of patients with conditions associated with sexual violence or illegal sexual behavior. Yet, these interventions will have to be evaluated.

Exploring attachment, adverse experiences and trauma in adolescents in custody for a sexual offence

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A mixed methods study will be presented which explores the characteristics, life experiences, and behaviours of adolescent males serving sentences for sexual offences in two UK youth custody establishments.

It has been identified that the ‘voice of the child’ is rarely captured within research into adolescent harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). To address this gap in the literature, insight into the lived experience of a small number of the adolescents will be provided. This qualitative data will be presented alongside statistical dataset analysis.

The aim of the study was to explore the background characteristics of these young people along with analysis of the interplay between adverse life experiences, trauma, attachment relationships, and their harmful sexual behaviour.

The findings of the study will be presented with discussion of implications for clinical practice.

Technology-assisted harmful sexual behaviour among children and adolescents – Understanding and intervening

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Children and young people are growing up in a digital world which brings many benefits but is also an area in which they can harm and be harmed. This interactive workshop will explore types of technology-assisted harmful sexual behaviour (TA HSB) displayed by children and adolescents, with both vulnerability and risk considered. A summary of the research base will be presented, with space for discussion on recognising and responding to TA HSB.

Prevention of TA HSB will be considered with reference to cyber-safety and safety planning. The focus will then move to assessment and intervention when TA HSB has taken place.

Do the sexual fantasies of minor-attracted people differ depending on the target?

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Minor-attracted people (MAPs) have been found to sexually fantasise about children. However, a Target x Behaviour interaction may be at play, wherein different behaviours are fantasised about depending on the imagined target. This was examined in the present study. Fifty-seven MAPs and 29 non-MAPS recruited online completed a sexual fantasy questionnaire twice; one in relation to adult targets and one in relation to child targets. Both questionnaires comprised a romantic, impersonal, sexualised aggression, and sexualised submission subscale. Age-related interests, emotional congruence with children, and child abuse-supportive beliefs were also assessed. A 2(Group) x 4(Fantasy Theme) x 2(Fantasy Target) mixed ANOVA revealed a significant 3-way interaction. MAPs scored higher on all child-related fantasies compared to non-MAPS. Within MAPs, romantic child-related fantasies were greater than the other three child-related fantasies. Also, romantic and impersonal fantasies involving children did not differ from those involving adults. However, sexually aggressive and submissive fantasies involving adults were greater than those involving children. In addition, sexual fantasies involving children were positively associated with emotional congruence and abuse-supportive beliefs, while adult-related fantasies were not. These findings support the idea of a Target x Behaviour interaction, indicating that the specific behaviours should be determined when assessing child-related sexual fantasies.

An overview of the development and therapeutic approach of Stand Strong, Walk Tall and Det Finnes Hjelp

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Stand Strong, Walk Tall (SSWT) is a New Zealand-led research collaboration and pilot secondary therapeutic preventive intervention for individuals who experience sexual attraction to children, available on a self-referral basis with options for face-to-face or virtual delivery. The SSWT approach is also operating across Norway under the name Det Finnes Hjelp (Help is Here; DFH). In this first talk of the symposium, the development of the service model and the approach taken in both countries will be overviewed, including site-specific differences where applicable. Attendees will be introduced to the dual overarching aims of the intervention approach, underlying theoretical basis, intervention philosophy, and key therapeutic targets. The focus on reducing barriers, and the importance of research to the SSWT/DFH model will also be discussed.

The Danish Sexual Offender Treatment and Research Program (DASOP): Possible effects on criminal reoffending?

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To reduce recidivism for individuals who sexually offended (ISOs), the Danish Parliament voted to implement DASOP; a targeted multisystem ISO management model across Denmark in 1997.

We conducted an ecological, prospective, national matched cohort study and compared reoffending during a 10-year fixed follow-up of 541 ISOs referred to pre-treatment assessment in DASOP 2006-09 and individually matched (1:1; age, sex, index sexual offence and sentence) with ISOs convicted before DASOP was implemented.

DASOP assessment – variably followed by psychological and pharmacological treatment for eligible (based on risk and offence severity) and consenting ISOs – was associated with less sexual reoffending (12% vs. 16%; adjusted Hazard Ratio (aHR)=0.70, $p<0.05$), severe sexual reoffending (5% vs. 9%; aHR=0.56, $p<0.05$), and any crime (41% vs. 53%; aHR=0.72, $p<0.001$).

Specifically, 109/541 (20%) of DASOP examinees had 4+ months of consecutive, individualized psychiatric outpatient treatment. Although intentionally selected because of higher sexual reoffending risk, treated ISOs reoffended less than comparison subjects on most outcomes, albeit not significantly so.

The still operational national DASOP initiative and outpatient psychiatric treatment appeared linked to reduced sexual and general reoffending in convicted ISOs compared to matched historical controls. Further research is needed to validate integrated multimodal models for ISO management.

Protective and desistance factors among individuals who have committed a sexual offense (ICSO): Need for a clarified articulation

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Forensic literature has witnessed a plethora of assessment tools emphasizing risk factors (Singh et al., 2014). Assessment and care practices have gradually evolved when professionals no longer ask what does not work but What works (Farrall & Maruna, 2004). Moreover, literature suggests professionals would be better prepared to treat offenders if they were allowed to listen to what offenders think is best for them rather than insisting professionals' solutions are best (Maruna, 2016). Principle of What works is therefore complemented by Why works and How works approach to rehabilitation. From this positivist perspective, inclusion of so-called „positive“ factors as protective or desistance factors is an important issue. The current paper aims to articulate two studies regarding protective and desistance factors among individuals who have committed a sexual offense (ICSO): the first study consists of a systematized literature review focusing on protective factors identified among ICSO and the SAPROF validity measure; the second study investigates desistance factors identified through the discourses of six male ICSO on probation or conditional release. Results of these two complementary studies will be discussed in light of the literature, laying the foundations for future research required for the conceptual and operational clarification of protective and desistance factors.

Conceptualization of a blended group treatment of patients with deviant sexual preference disorder consuming child abuse material

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The poster depicts the literature-based ongoing development of a needs- and resource-oriented, cognitive-behavioral treatment program for users of child sexual exploitation material. The program is the further development of an existing treatment program at a forensic specialist outpatient clinic. The target group are repeatedly convicted users of child sexual exploitation material of the Periodically Prurient Offender and Fantasy Only Offender type (Elliott & Beech, 2009). The primary goal is relapse prevention by integrating the online environment (usage of social media, search behavior, media literacy) associated with delinquency. The treatment program includes nine modules (individual offense hypothesis, emotional competence, problem-solving skills, biography work, online behavior, cognitive distortions, sexuality, intimacy, and relapse prevention). The interventions will be administered in a blended format consisting of face-to-face sessions and online modules to implement and practice conscious online behavior. The therapy contents will be delivered using a multimodal approach, including psychoeducation, training, self-management, and activation of personal resources as well as relapse prevention.

Are mental disorders associated with recidivism in men convicted of sexual offenses?

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In offending populations, prevalence rates of mental disorders are higher than in the general population. Nevertheless, it is unclear whether mental disorders can improve the prediction of recidivism beyond actuarial risk assessment tools. The present prospective-longitudinal study was conducted between 2001 and 2021 and included 1,066 men convicted of sexual offenses in Austria. All participants were evaluated with actuarial risk assessment tools for the prediction of sexual and violent recidivism and the Structured Clinical Interview for Axis I and Axis II disorders. Sexual and violent reconvictions were assessed. Exhibitionism and exclusive pedophilia showed the strongest correlations with sexual recidivism in the total sample. In the child related offense subsample additionally a narcissistic personality disorder was correlated with sexual recidivism. The strongest correlation with violent recidivism was found for antisocial and borderline personality disorders. None of the mental disorders could improve the prediction of recidivism beyond actuarial risk assessment tools. Common current actuarial risk assessment tools revealed good predictive accuracy in men convicted of sexual offenses. With few exceptions mental disorders were only weakly associated with recidivism, suggesting that there is no direct link between mental disorders and violent and sexual reoffending. Mental disorders should nevertheless be considered in treatment issues.

Links between aggression-related sexual fantasies, sexual harassment and the use of coercive strategies in men and women

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Recent research consistently related aggression-related sexual fantasies (ASF) to sexual sadism above and beyond other pertinent risk factors for sexual aggression. It, however, has hardly considered measures that clearly capture sexual acts against the other person's will. In addition, it did not control for important distal and situational risk factors for sexual aggression, such as experiences of abuse or alcohol and drug consumption. Finally, previous research on sexual aggression has mostly concentrated on men. To close these gaps, we had 776 participants between 18 and 69 years of age with a large proportion of women (64%) rating their ASF, lifetime sexual harassment, the use of coercive strategies during the previous year, and numerous pertinent risk factors for sexual aggression. ASF showed positive associations with sexual harassment and the use of coercive strategies beyond all other variables and were the strongest predictor of the use of coercive strategies. The interaction between ASF and substance use also added to the predictions. The pattern of findings was similar in men and women. These findings further underscore the potential relevance of ASF for sexual aggression irrespective of gender and point to the need to address them in future research and intervention measures.

A dialogical tool for prevention of harmful sexual behavior among adolescents

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Play it right is a dialogue-based toolkit to facilitate conversations about sexuality with adolescents and young people. The purpose of the toolkit is to give professionals tools to address sensitive topics in a non-judgmental manner.

The aim with the presentation is to present the different elements in the toolkit and to share experiences of how the toolkit can be used to work with primary prevention of harmful sexual behavior, but also to support a healthy sexual development for children and young persons with harmful sexual behavior.

Play it right was developed as a collaborative project between RVTS Øst - Regional Resource Centre on Violence, Traumatic Stress and Suicide Prevention in Eastern Norway and KRUS – the University College of Norwegian Correctional Service.

Play it right is flexible and functions both in group conversations, in educational settings and in one-on-one dialogues. The toolkit is used as a supplement for professionals working with prevention, and in therapy or to support young people with problematic or harmful sexual behavior and/or young people who have experienced sexual harassment or assault.

In our presentation, we will present *Play it right*, describe the different parts of the toolkit and share experiences with the use of *Play it right* in Norway.

Play it Right part 2: A dialogical tool for prevention of harmful sexual behavior among adolescents with intellectual disabilities

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The new tools are developed as a collaboration between RVTS Øst - Regional Resource Centre on Violence, Traumatic Stress and the national project group that aim to strengthen competence on harmful sexual behaviour in the specialist-field of habilitation in Norway.

With these tools we aim to help individuals with disabilities attain, keep, or improve skills and functioning for healthy sexual behaviour. In our presentation we will share our experience from the development of the visual tools, show some examples from the new tools, and discuss how the tools can help us to start reflection processes with young people with intellectual disabilities about consent, boundaries, sexuality, “grey areas” and other topics related to sexuality.

Prison climate and rehabilitation of men with sexual convictions: The relationship between relationships, readiness and compassion

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Prison-based treatment for men with sexual convictions is contested. Mews and colleagues (2017) found the rate of overall sexual reoffending was larger in treated men with sexual convictions. This is perhaps not surprising, especially for prison-based interventions, given that prison may not be the ideal place for rehabilitative work. This presentation will unpack a series of empirical studies that have explored rehabilitative prison climate and its impact on intervention. It explores the relationship between prisoners and staff, treatment motivation and readiness and beliefs about change. A key finding is that rehabilitative climate mediated the relationship between prisoner-staff relationships and readiness for treatment. The implications for this and for the ideal conditions for prison-based interventions are discussed. The core argument in this presentation extends the recent focus of compassion-focused therapy in forensic interventions (see Hocken & Taylor, 2021; Kolts & Gilbert, 2018) and argues that a possible way forward for correctional practice more broadly is to adhere more closely to principles of compassion in order to promote more meaningful self-change (Blagden et al, in 2023).

The Corbett Centre: A case study for reintegration of people with sexual convictions

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Re-entry into the community is a particularly challenging time for people with sexual convictions against children. Although there are multiple support services available in prison, this support is greatly reduced when the individual is released, and the stigma attached to sexual offences can create a hostile environment for re-entry, leading to isolation, shame, depression and anxiety. Further, the risk-based support system and the absence of a proactive and positive approach to rehabilitation and reintegration can contribute to recidivism.

The SLF's Corbett Centre is the only rehabilitation centre in the UK which offers specialised and continued support for individuals to lead pro-social, offence-free lives after a sexual conviction. The aim of the Corbett Centre is to provide hope, promote wellbeing, and support individuals to develop pro-social skills, assist individuals to lead positive, offence-free lives and reduce recidivism. The presentation will unpack a mixed-methods evaluation on how service-users progress through the centre and how it contributes to their reintegration journey. Preliminary results suggest significant increases in wellbeing and hope, and reductions in shame, depression and anxiety. This presentation will also discuss the unique challenges faced in the development of the centre, as well as an overview of recent findings, and the implications for service-user reintegration.

Rape in the Czech Republic: Definition, figures, offenders and their treatment

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Rape is a serious sexual offence that is usually associated with forcible intercourse. However, the definition of rape varies from country to country and there is a trend towards expanding it to include other forms of behaviour that do not involve neither direct physical violence nor the commission of coitus. Thus, the treatment of perpetrators of this offence must be adapted accordingly. This paper presents the situation in this area in the Czech Republic. It describes what forms of behaviour are included in the Czech definition of rape and what the official data on this crime are at national level. Based on the results of empirical research, it presents the basic characteristics of offenders convicted of rape in the Czech Republic. It compares these characteristics with the measures applied to these offenders. The paper also discusses the current campaign to change the definition of rape based on „lack of consent“, which is taking place at the political level in the Czech Republic. The authors build on findings from recent research (VG20122014084, VI20172019087) focused on the violent sex crime and the related sanctions.

Adverse childhood experiences, trauma-informed principles and sexual violence risk assessment: Are we where we need to be?

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Risk assessment is central to forensic mental health services. Recent advances in research, particularly in the field of neuroscience, have supported the need for the development of ‘trauma-informed’ practices in forensic mental health settings. But have these advances reached the process and practice of risk assessment?

To address this question, this presentation will provide an outline of the literature exploring the link between adverse childhood experiences and the risk of sexual/violence. More specifically, the way in which trauma is conceptualised in structured professional risk assessment tools and how this knowledge translates to risk assessment practice in forensic mental health settings will be explored.

The presentation will then turn to examining best practice for sexual violence risk assessment, best practice for trauma-informed care and whether the two processes are synonymous. Can the process of risk assessment that ultimately informs high stake decisions that have the consequence of the restriction of liberty can ever truly be ‘trauma-informed’?

Based on the literature reviewed within this presentation, possible future directions for the practice and process of risk assessments, that acknowledge early adverse experiences, will be discussed.

Developing and delivering a trauma-informed, compassion-focused therapy programme for individuals with histories of complex trauma, mental health, neurodiversity and sexually harmful behaviours

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Designing and delivering effective treatment programmes for individuals with complex needs is challenging in forensic mental health services. There is a need to facilitate highly responsive, multimodal treatment that meets the needs of individuals with neuro-diversity, mental health and personality difficulties, and histories of complex trauma.

The presentation will then introduce a programme specifically designed to engage individuals with histories of sexual offending and neuro-diversity that is being piloted in a secure hospital setting in the UK. The programme design, development and implementation will be discussed in relation to current literature around addressing sexual offending behaviours and understanding the role of trauma and offending and trauma-informed principles.

The presentation will explore the phases of the ‘Being Me’ programme and how they progress to work therapeutically with the individual’s experiences of trauma, and how they sit within a wider Multi-modal and multidisciplinary approach underpinned by Compassion Focused Therapy.

The talk will then move to share the experiences of both facilitators and group members who have been part of the pilot programme.

The running clinical trials **PRIORITY**, **GPP** and **BRIDGE**

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⁸ *EU-funded project PRIORITY (Prevention to Reduce Incidence Of Sexual Abuse by Reaching Individuals Concerned About Their Risk to Young People). The project is a collaboration between researchers at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden, Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf in Germany, Universidade do Porto, The Royal Ottawa Institute of Mental Health Research in Canada, and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA. PI: Peer Briken*

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Anonymous, low-barrier, internet-delivered psychotherapy is part of a new global strategy for preventing child sexual abuse. In this presentation, three ongoing randomized controlled trials will be presented. The **PRIORITY** and **GPP** projects are evaluating the efficacy and feasibility of the revised Prevent It program – a nine week, anonymous, therapist-assisted online cognitive behavioral therapy targeting individuals who are concerned about their sexual urges involving children. The program is available in English, German, Portuguese and Swedish. The **BRIDGE** project has developed two new anonymous and online interventions for individuals with sexual interest in minors, that are tailored to the participant's risk level of sexually offending: (1) **MI Bridge** – a three week, anonymous, online Motivational Interviewing intervention, aiming to motivate high-risk participants to admit to treatment face to face as identified patients, and (2) **ReDirection** - a five week, anonymous online cognitive behavioral self-help program intervention aiming to reduce sexual urges and behaviors regarding children in the group with low/medium risk participants. The programs are available in English, Swedish, Spanish, Czech, Slovak, and German.

Practical and ethical considerations of research with incarcerated women: Learnings from a bi-regional study of online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC) offenders in the Philippines

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Recent research shows that 66% of Philippines-based traffickers were female, with most biological parents or family members.

This study examined the facilitation of the Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) by these Filipino offenders involved in its supply. It sought to understand the individual, familial, community, social, institutional, and technological factors motivating offenders, and how these offences are facilitated in local and online communities. A novel aspect of this research was it involved prison-based interviews with convicted women.

The inherent challenges involving research with such vulnerable communities were compounded by factors particular to bi-regional collaboration that will be reflected on.

From initial project design, multi-site research ethics approval, engagement with government departments and correctional facility staff, the experiences of the team are presented. We focus on aspects of the project management of roles and responsibilities that worked particularly well and areas that required review and amendment to proceed. We also reflect on the practical and ethical considerations of such research, with a focus on cultural considerations in general and respecting the dignity of the women entrusted by us to tell their stories. We suggest recommendations for future similar research with vulnerable communities.

Responding to online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC) in the Philippines: Towards an understanding of offence presentation, risk and management considerations

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The Philippines is described as the global epicentre of OSAEC, with recent studies suggesting that offences are largely facilitated by female, Filipina, ‘supply-side’ traffickers, alongside ‘demand-side’ OSAEC consumers in Western countries. Despite this novel, challenging presentation, limited research has considered the nature of OSAEC facilitation in the Philippines and associated implications for risk and offender management, whether in-country or in ‘demand-side’ jurisdictions. The proposed symposium highlights current information and issues on this phenomenon based on the findings of two projects in the Philippines. Part 1^{1,3,4} reports on a mixed-method study of OSAEC facilitation in the Philippines drawing on (n=41) key informant interviews, (n=35) case files and interviews with adjudicated traffickers. Findings suggest that OSAEC facilitation is frequently financially-motivated, intra-familial, associated with co-dependence between traffickers and victims and adverse implications across the life course; while family dysfunction, prosecution challenges and innovation in payments technologies are offence-facilitating factors. Against this background, Part 2² reports on ethical, policy and practical considerations in developing a sex offenders’ register in the Philippines. Symposium discussions focus on OSAEC presentation, risk factors, possibilities for ‘demand-side’ reduction, and key priorities/challenges in establishing an in-country sex offenders’ register. Implications for, policy, practice and research are discussed.

Psychodynamic countertransference phenomena in group therapy for sex offenders: A case study from the observer's perspective

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Sex offender treatment poses a significant challenge for therapists, particularly in group therapy settings. Strong emotional reactions that may arise in therapists can compromise the therapeutic alliance and create discomfort, leading some therapists to hesitate in engaging with this population.

In this presentation, we focus on psychodynamic countertransference phenomena that can occur in group therapy for sexual offenders. Drawing on psychodynamic theories, we describe selected clinical situations that triggered strong affective reactions, such as anger, disgust, or fear. In our team of two therapists and a silent observer, we use the observer's perspective, who has to perceive the emotions particularly intensively due to her role. We explore how these emotional reactions reflect unconscious conflicts and dynamics, and how they can be used as a therapeutic tool to deepen the understanding of the patient.

We argue that by acknowledging and processing their countertransference reactions, therapists can develop a more empathic approach to working with sexual offenders, promoting their rehabilitation.

This case study aims to contribute to a shared understanding of the strong emotional reactions that can arise when working with sexual offenders and demonstrate that, despite their challenges, these reactions can provide invaluable insights. Special attention should be given to these reactions in intervision and supervision.

Live distance child abuse from a police perspective

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The last decade it has become more and more common to sexual abuse children via the internet. This talk will give you information from the police's perspective. How the police in recent years have focused on how to uncover and investigate live distance child abuse cases. You will get to know how the perpetrators, so-called buyers, in the Western countries come into contact with the facilitators, so-called sellers, in the Philippines. And how the buyers act to commit live distance child abuse while sitting safely and hidden behind the computer in their own living room.

The lecture will reveal some of the challenges for the police in these cases, and how they should be handled. The investigation in these kinds of cases requires resources, but it is important to show that people committing this type of crime are not safe, and that there is a risk of high penalties. The police also focus on the victim, even if the children are not in a Western country. By saving the children of the Philippines, we prevent them from further abuse. Through the communication from the seller, we are able to detect and arrest new buyers in Western countries. Sharing information with other countries is necessary to find buyers who are cautious and have a high level of data security.

Development of a rating scale for offending dynamics of men convicted for sexual offenses

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In this talk, the construction process of our newly developed rating scale will be explained in more detail. In this context, the shortcomings of already existing item/indicator lists will be addressed first. Thus, our goal was to develop a structured and reliable assessment tool, which can be rated based on file information and which is meant to be used mainly for research purposes, however, which can be of some value for clinicians and practitioners as well. To address this goal, we tested our rating scale in several steps for its reliability as well as usability and assessed the psychometric properties. We then adjusted the scale accordingly. First data and the final assessment tool will be presented. A valid and reliable assessment of offense dynamics allows us to describe the heterogeneous group of sexual offenders in a more nuanced way, which is an important basis for many research questions. In therapeutic contexts it can also be helpful to sensitize clinicians for the individual's criminogenic needs and risk factors in order to derive adequate therapeutic methods and goals.

The relevance of the self-regulation model for the explanation of sexual violence

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In the 1990s, Ward and Hudson developed a theoretical model, the so-called self-regulation model of the relapse process (SRM; Ward & Hudson, 1998; 2000), in order to explain sexually assaultive behavior that categorized men who have been convicted for a sexual offense into four offense pathways, taking into account the individual's primary goal (approach vs. avoidance) and their self-regulatory mechanisms (active/explicit vs. passive/automatic). In the first part of the talk, a broad overview of the theoretical framework of the model will be presented. Our first goal is to provide the audience with a deeper understanding of the motivational aspects and offense dynamics described by the model, as well as the various regulatory mechanisms. We then will focus on more recent empirical findings, a critical evaluation of the model and how we deduced a potential assessment tool.

Problematic and harmful sexual behaviour and autism spectrum disorder: Implications for practice

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Due to practitioners, internationally, reporting rising numbers of children and young people on their caseloads who are either diagnosed or possibly autistic and where there are also concerns about their sexual behaviours, there was an identified need for practice guidance on assessment and interventions regarding autism and problematic/harmful sexual behaviours.

This workshop will provide an overview of Carol Carson's research PhD and her Practice Guidance on Autism and Problematic/Harmful Sexual Behaviours. The Practice Guidance looks at the implications for practice and the need for a proportionate, balanced approach. The focus is on understanding the individual and the Practice Guidance includes a tool for creating individual autistic profiles and provides suggestions for how practice can be adapted to facilitate their understanding and engagement in the process.

Preventing future harm: Case studies of juveniles in preventive sex offender treatment

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Juveniles who sexually offend against children have been studied extensively over the past decade, and according treatment guidelines have been developed. However, most of the studies, and corresponding treatment approaches, focus on youth who have already been convicted and/ or institutionalized. Also, most of these studies do not differentiate between youth with and without sexual interest in younger children.

In contrast to after-the-fact interventions for juvenile sex offenders, we present a preventive treatment approach specifically targeting the distinct group of youth who are sexually attracted to or engage in sexual acts with children, and who have not yet been in contact with the justice system. The heterogeneity of this group of adolescents is described through specific case studies including reasons for admission, biography, and sexual history, from which comparisons are derived.

In our clinical experience, it becomes apparent that treatment of juveniles, who seek treatment prior to being in contact with the justice system, is accompanied by particular challenges (e.g., lengthy motivational work, comorbidities, even just talking about sexuality with adolescents). From our perspective, therapy research should not exclusively concentrate on adolescents who have already been charged or prosecuted.

Mental health needs and barriers to treatment of people with a sexual interest in children: A systematic review

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Background: People with a sexual interest in children, or pedohebephiles, face significant barriers to seeking and receiving mental health treatment. This literature review aims to support primary prevention by bridging the gap between the self-reported mental health needs of pedohebephiles, and the mental health services that are intended to fulfill these needs.

Method: Multiple reviewers screened and extracted findings from qualitative and quantitative literature on the mental health needs expressed by self-reported or diagnosed pedohebephiles, as well as their perceived or experienced barriers to treatment.

Results: Research suggests that many pedohebephilic individuals want treatment to cope with their sexual interest and address related mental health needs, yet are faced with many barriers such as stigmatization and discrimination. Additionally, legal repercussions, such as mandatory reporting laws, can make it difficult for them to seek treatment because they fear being reported.

Discussion: The current study is the first to accumulate and discuss previous findings on the mental health needs and barriers to treatment of pedohebephiles. It draws conclusions regarding potential strategies for primary prevention that can be adopted by mental health practitioners and clinicians when treating individuals with a sexual interest in children.

A compassionate approach to prevention: The Aurora Project

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Sexual abuse is a considerable public health problem that results in persistent harm for its victims and a sizable impact on health and mental health services, criminal justice agencies, and, in turn, the economy. There has been a shift from a reactionary focus to sexual abuse to a focus on preventing first-time and early-stage sexual offending. Within this focus, it is important that those individuals living in the community with sexual thoughts and behaviour that concern them are offered intervention. One such project is the Safer Living Foundation's The Aurora Project (TAP) – a free therapeutic service for those with problematic sexual thoughts or behaviour. In a move away from established approaches to working this sexual offending, the clinical approach to working with this population integrates compassion-focused therapy (CFT).

This presentation will provide an insight into the integration of a compassion focused framework to TAP. It will address the implementation of compassion, evaluation design, and provide empirical results across multiple studies. The first study is a quantitative evaluation of psychological wellbeing constructs across time-points. The second study is a process-based interview study with participants. The third study is an interview study with the wives of men in the TAP service. Implications and future directions are discussed.

Individuals' interpretation of scenarios included in the rape proclivity measure

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To address the substantial proportion of sexual offenders who are not apprehended, scholars have developed measures to examine the propensity of the general public to commit sexually violent behavior (e.g., Bohner et al., 1998). These sexual offender proclivity measures assess self-reported sexual interest in rape (e.g., Bohner et al., 1998). When proclivities were assessed in university samples, 35% to 70% reported at least a slight level of interest in engaging in sexual aggressive acts (Malamuth, 1981; Brown & Harkins, 2016). With such high number of individuals self-reporting a potential interest in sexual violence, it is important to determine whether participants' interpretation of the questions is what the construct is aiming to measure. Examining items on the rape proclivity measure to find out if they measure the intended underlying construct can fill an important gap in research on sexual aggression.

The current study aims to examine participants' interpretation of the items on Bohner et al.'s (1998) rape proclivity measure. This was examined in a sample of 100 male undergraduate students. Participants were given scenarios listed on rape proclivity measure and were asked to anonymously provide their interpretation of various aspects of each scenario. Thematic analysis was conducted to evaluate participants' understanding of questions.

Empathy for pain: A group comparison of autonomic empathic responding in sexual offenders against children

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Previous research suggests that people who sexually offend against children are commonly characterized by victim empathy deficits. Despite theories of sexual abuse highlighting the ways that empathic arousal deficits can lead individuals to harm another, the role of emotional arousal in child sexual offending has received little attention. To address this, our research examined differences in empathic arousal between incarcerated individuals convicted of child sexual offences, convicted of violent offences and community controls. We collected physiological measures (pupil dilation and gaze location) and explicit ratings (participants' arousal and perceived intensity of pain) while presenting participants with stimuli depicting others' pain. These stimuli included emotional faces and hands in painful situations displayed from a first-person and third-person perspective in order to examine the effects of methodological considerations in researching autonomic empathic responding. We will present the results of statistical analyses which highlight the effects of offence type and levels of psychopathic personality traits on empathic autonomic arousal to pain. We will discuss the implications of these results for decisions around the treatment given to people who have sexually offended, theories of empathic deficits in people who have harmed a victim, and consideration of methodological choices on the measurement of empathic responses.

The embodied self: Exploring therapeutic interventions through a trauma lens with men who sexually offend

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The majority of treatment programmes in forensic settings offered to men who sexually offend are based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy. The focus is on risk, need, and responsivity principles, with less attention on patients' own trauma history. With the increased understanding of the impact of early childhood adversity on brain development it is crucial to explore ways to deliver therapy in ways that are trauma-responsive and engage the brain and body in differing ways.

This presentation will explore the concept of the 'embodied self' and the implications for responsive therapeutic delivery techniques, especially with patients with histories of complex trauma. The presentation will draw on research conducted by the presenter which qualitatively explored the experiences of 13 men who completed treatment. This research highlighted the value of role play as a treatment method (experiential and embodied) to work through their own abuse and trauma.

This presentation will conclude by reviewing a variety of methods and approaches that can be used to enhance therapeutic work in relation to the 'embodied self' when working with trauma and offending in forensic mental health settings.

Mapping incel language: A longitudinal linguistic analysis of online incel speech

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In recent years, several high-profile incidents of violence have been attributed to Incels (involuntary celibates) and their associated ideology. Incels form an online subculture that has been registered as a hate group by the American Southern Poverty Law Center. Taking a deterministic perspective, Incels feel they are entitled to a sexual relationship with a woman, and that a failure to obtain such a relationship is the result of women's unfair dating preferences. Their online language is characterised by misogynistic, hateful, violent speech, with glorifying references made to the various violent incidents that have happened in recent years. Little is known about the manner in which engagement in these online spaces exacerbates individuals' extreme views and whether online engagement contributes to violence ideation. This study analysed approximately 94,000 comments made by Incel forum users ($N = 196$) over a period of three consecutive months. To determine how their language progressed during this period, we used automated text-processing software, LIWC-22. Dictionaries related to affect, grievance and extreme language were used, as well as the Incel Violent Extremism dictionary. Support for escalation of language over time was found. Implications regarding the process of online radicalisation of incels are discussed.

Over- and undertreatment in sex offender therapy: Evaluation of the degree of treatment in a specialist outpatient setting

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The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of social therapy departments (SoThAs) on sex offender therapy in an outpatient setting using the five-category model. Data from a sex offenders' outpatient department were used to assess the need for sex offender therapy using the Static-99 and Violence Risk Scale: Sexual Offenders (VRS-SO) and the five-category model. The evaluation included data from 2008 to 2023.

A total of 955 sex offenders were included in the analysis. Among the Static-99 subjects, 63.5% required therapy. In the outpatient setting, 54.4% were undertreated, 20.8% were overtreated, and 24.8% received appropriate therapy. Of the total subjects, 160 (16.8%) completed therapy in a SoThA. Subjects who had experienced SoThA were protected from undertreatment (OR 0.24, 95% CI: 0.16-0.35). However, cases in which subjects had experienced SoThA were three times more likely to be overtreated (OR 3.26, 95% CI: 2.26-4.70).

Special consideration for SoThA could counteract the state of undertreatment because resources are limited.

Self-reported cognitive distortions, treatment retention and recidivism

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In 2019, in Quebec, police reported that 45.6% of sexual assault victims and 90.8% of other sexual offenses victims are minors. Studies show that child molesters can try to explain their offense with implicit theories and tend to develop more cognitive distortions than individuals who have not committed any sexual offense. Manifesting cognitive distortions implies a higher risk of recidivism. The main objective of this project is to study the relevance of self-reported cognitive distortions with sexological treatment and recidivism as measured by the three instruments used at the Intervention Centre in Sexual Delinquency (ICSD) in Laval (Québec). The sample is composed of 1573 child molesters assessed between 1998 and 2020. Exploratory factor analyses were conducted, and emerging factors were linked with treatment and recidivism data. Preliminary results suggest that self-reported cognitive distortions do not appear to be related to general, violent and sexual recidivism. However, denial and some of its facets are particularly linked with treatment completion which, in turn, is related to the three types of recidivism. Individuals endorsing more denial are more likely not to complete their treatment. These results imply that programs should allow a higher retention rate for participant manifesting denial to reduce recidivism risk.

Cognitive distortions and their relevance for pedophilia

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Cognitive distortions associated with sexual offenses against children are highly functional, allowing a person to commit such an offense and justify it afterwards. Examples for such distortions are, among others, the assumption that children are interested in sexual intercourse with adults. My research gives evidence that there is a relationship between this kind of cognitive distortions and pedophilia in men who have committed sexual offenses against children. To be more precise, individuals diagnosed with exclusive pedophilia do not only exhibit more but also more severe cognitive distortions compared to individuals without such diagnoses. Those cognitive distortions that can be understood as a projection of one's own sexual desire onto the child are most strongly associated with exclusive pedophilia. Results thus indicate that cognitive distortions can be of diagnostic value when it comes to pedophilia; a diagnosis that is often difficult to make. Consequently, results are also important for the establishment of treatment measures tailored to individual needs in terms of risk management.

Developing a core outcome set for the evaluation of psychoeducational programmes for individuals engaging in online child sexual abuse, technology-assisted harmful sexual behaviours, and their families: A Theory of Change approach

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The development and routine implementation of evaluation methods for any interventions within the field of physical and mental health is an important element of reviewing programme effectiveness and redesigning programmes to achieve desired outcomes. Within an evaluation framework, the development of a core outcome set (COS) ensures that evaluation focuses on the minimum required outcomes that speak to whether programme aims have been achieved and will likely be useful for research in the scientific field(s) and practice setting(s) a programme is applied to. Staff at The Lucy Faithfull Foundation (LFF) engaged in a Theory of Change process intended to produce a COS to evaluate psychoeducational programmes aiming to reduce risk of reoffending and concurrently promote wellbeing among people who have committed online child sexual abuse (CSA). This presentation will provide an overview of the process of developing the evaluation protocol and the evaluation protocol that was subsequently developed to enhance the methodological rigour of psychoeducational programme evaluation within LFF.

Establishing expert consensus on essential components and evaluation of programmes for the prevention of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) offences: An international e-Delphi study

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There is currently limited published evidence and guidance on best practice in designing and evaluating perpetrator-focused programmes aiming to prevent child sexual abuse material (CSAM) offences. To this end, a modified, online Delphi survey will be deployed internationally among individuals with academic and/or professional expertise in designing, delivering, and/or evaluating perpetrator-focused CSAM prevention programmes. Expert consensus will be sought during three Delphi survey rounds on a) essential (active) components for effective perpetrator-focused CSAM prevention programmes, b) outcomes that should be evaluated to capture programme effectiveness, c) robust data collection methods to capture said outcomes, and d) methods safeguarding anonymity during the informed consent and data collection stages of studies recruiting individuals at risk of CSAM offending. Consensus statistics will be shared with experts before a new survey round is introduced and at the end of the project. Findings from the Delphi study can be synthesised in guidelines for (re) designing and evaluating clinician-facilitated and self-directed CSAM prevention programmes, to enhance their effectiveness.

Exploring essential components of programmes for the prevention of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) offences: Focus-groups and interviews with individuals who have committed CSAM offences

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Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a global public health concern, associated with a host of psychosocial impacts for those affected and with significant socioeconomic costs. Within this domain, offences that are particularly important for prevention initiatives to concentrate on involve the production, distribution, and/or consumption of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), which have been increasing exponentially over the years. Individuals exclusively engaging in CSAM offences are shown to present differently from offenders with a history of contact CSA, demonstrating lower levels of antisociality and higher levels of empathy and self-control that may act as barriers to offending. They might, therefore, lend themselves more favourably to prevention efforts. The current study aims to qualitatively explore views of arrested and non-arrested individuals who committed CSAM offences on aspects of the Stop It Now! UK and Ireland Get Help website that facilitate or inhibit engagement with CSAM-specific prevention resources on the website. Findings are intended to inform efforts to update the online Get Help resources for increased effectiveness, which can be evaluated in a future project.

The use of online-based self-report instruments in sexual risk assessment (@MyTabu)

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Digital assessment is becoming more popular worldwide and techniques based on self-report hold a high potential within this framework. Self-report instruments have some advantages (e.g., “first source” information and economic application), and several studies show promising results for assessing risk factors with this method. Therefore, the following online questionnaires were developed and validated in the present study: The Acute-2007-SR assesses acute dynamic risk factors (e.g., emotional crisis situation), the Stable-SR includes stable dynamic factors (e.g., problem-solving strategies), and the third instrument assesses general and sexual deviant and criminal behaviors (e.g., threats or grooming behaviors). The present study includes a sample of $N = 175$ individuals convicted of pedosexual offenses, who were under probation or community supervision during data collection. Using a longitudinal study design, online self-assessments were conducted at three time points. Additionally, probation officers or therapists were requested for online external assessments at two timepoints, and file-based criminological data was additionally collected. This multi-methodological approach has generated extensive data material, which is evaluated regarding the psychometric characteristics of the instruments and the validity of self-report data in the context of risk assessment and management. The results will be presented and discussed.

Digital assessment is becoming more popular worldwide and today, self-report techniques can be regarded as the best available method so far. Particularly for @myTabu, self-report instruments are needed to assess online recidivism risk factors and deviant behavior.

The impact of ‘the Knock’ and the criminal justice journey for non-offending family members of individuals suspected of IIOC

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The support needs and experiences for family members of individuals suspected of CSAM (child sexual abuse material) offences is an under-researched area; non-offending family members are unsupported from the start of the process (the Knock) and throughout the Criminal Justice journey.

The search warrant at the family home, commonly referred to as ‘the Knock’ is where the police go into the (family) home with a search warrant where they suspect IIOC has been accessed. The effects of the Knock on family members have been documented to have harmful and damaging effects, and offence discovery is a distressing occurrence that often results in a trauma response.

In collaboration with the Lincolnshire POLIT (paedophile online investigation team) who (uniquely) currently have a Support Officer dedicated to deal with the family members from the start of this journey, the researcher is aiming to document the impact of receiving this support, and how the trauma from the Knock and subsequent investigation can be mitigated, for all parties involved. By identifying gaps in current policy and practice and evidencing the benefits of support for this group, police forces and policy-makers can make evidence-based improvements in this space, encouraging progressive and positive change.

Health service utilization among persons convicted of sexual crimes: Results from a national cohort of prison inmates

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Introduction: In order to recognise the potential for secondary prevention of sexual violence through health service interventions, we need to know more about previous and current treatment utilisation, as this might inform us of treatment needs as well as identify windows of opportunity for intervention.

Objective: To investigate health service utilisation before and during imprisonment, as well as the diagnostic panorama of persons imprisoned for a sex crime.

Material and methods: Retrospective cohort data from the Norwegian Prison Release study (nPRIS), based on data extracted from the National Prison Registry linked to the National Patient registry. Data included all persons imprisoned for any sex crime in the period 2011-2019 (n=4104; 52 women and 4052 men).

Preliminary results: The sample's age range is 15-92 (mean=38.6, SD= 14.9), 34.5% are single, and 12.7% have achieved education beyond high school. A majority of 76.5% have committed contact offences, 23.5% non-contact offences, and 13% are registered with both types. Presence of mental disorder split the sample in half: 50.3% (n=2066) have a registered ICD-10 diagnosis (F-chapter, any type), while 50.7% have none. The presentation will add further details to these general findings based on group comparisons according to crime type.

Latent profiles of people convicted of sexual offences in the U.K.

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One size does not fit all in assessment and intervention for people with convictions for sexual offences. There is a need for more robust typologies that identify clusters of individuals based on psychologically meaningful risk factors that can be targeted in treatment. We aimed to identify different psychological profiles of people with convictions for sexual offences based on indicators of dynamic risk. Adult male participants, who were convicted for sexual offences and assessed for eligibility for the prison-based Core Sex Offender Treatment Programme delivered by His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (U.K.), were randomly allocated to a test ($n=1,577$: 70.2%) or validation ($n=668$: 29.8%) dataset. Exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was used to select measures of dynamic risk from psychological test data. EFA indicated four factors, from which six measures were selected for inclusion in latent profile analysis. Five latent profiles were identified in the test and validation dataset. These were labelled low psychological impairment, impulsive, distorted thinkers, rape preoccupied, and child fantasists. Profiles varied in individual characteristics, offence histories, victim preferences, and level of risk. Our findings should guide assessment and intervention practices that are tailored to distinct psychological profiles consistent with principles of risk, need, and responsivity.

Etiological aspects of hypersexuality in men convicted of a sexual offense

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In recent years, the conceptualization of hypersexuality has become increasingly precise, leading to the official recognition of compulsive sexual behavior disorder (CSBD) in the ICD-11. Despite this progress, however, the etiology of hypersexuality in the context of psychopathology remains poorly understood. To address this gap, the present study aimed to investigate the relationship between hypersexuality and various psychological constructs that are contained in theories regarding the etiology of abnormal quantitative sexual behavior through empirical analysis. The study included a sample of 203 men who had been convicted of sexually motivated offenses and had undergone assessment by the Federal Evaluation Centre for Violent and Sexual Offenders (FECVSO) in Austrian prisons between 2018 and 2020. As part of an extensive clinical assessment, German-language questionnaires were utilized to assess aggressiveness, assertiveness, depression, sexual narcissism, and sexual and social anxiety. The results of the study demonstrate that these psychological constructs can potentially contribute to explaining the development of excessive sexual behavior. The findings suggest that a deeper understanding of the etiological aspects of hypersexuality may aid in developing effective treatment and risk management strategies for individuals with compulsive sexual behavior disorder who have already committed a sex offense.

“Emotions are the clue, not the problem”

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The main focus of the workshop is how to improve emotional change in clients who have committed sexual offences. Theoretical models and research findings suggest that emotional processes underlie offenders' cognitive schemas and behavior and thus should be addressed in therapy. Furthermore, general psychotherapy research found that 'emotional responsivity', contact with emotions, expression and experiential reflection is correlated with good outcome. Some offenders struggle with too intense problematic emotions, others learned to dismiss their emotions or suppress them by fleeing into substance abuse or sex.

In Emotion-Focused Therapy, emotions are seen as a guide in life. They can, however, become problematic due to passed experiences. The solution is not to get rid of these emotions or control them better, but to listen to them and find a way through. Beneath the secondary maladaptive emotions or the wall of self-interruption, there are primary maladaptive emotions that need to be processed and adaptive emotions that reveal the underlying need. The workshop will offer illustrations on how to work with emotions in order to improve treatment outcome.

Harmful sexual behaviour in childhood and adolescence: Identifying, understanding and responding in the digital age

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Concern about harmful sexual behaviour in childhood is, perhaps, at an all-time high. In some jurisdictions, cases of young people coming to the attention of the criminal justice system because of their sexual behaviour now outstrip those of adult sexual offenders. Increasing concern about young people's 'technology assisted' and 'online' sexual behaviours challenge orthodox thinking about the origins, manifestations and responses to the problem. Drawing on his own and others' research, Simon will take stock of current evidence, theoretical models and practices for children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviours. Arguing that a developmental and contextual approach is vital, Simon will discuss ways in which harmful sexual behaviour may be better conceptualised and identified, and what this means for intervention responses.

Internet-administered cognitive behavioral therapy for hypersexual disorder, with or without paraphilia(s) or paraphilic disorder(s) in men: A pilot study

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Background: Compulsive sexual behavior disorder (CSBD), previously known as Hypersexual disorder (HD), is characterized by sexual preoccupation and loss of control over sexual behaviors, leading to negative consequences in various areas of life. Paraphilias and high sexual preoccupation are known risk factors for sexual reoffending and often present concomitantly. No previous studies have investigated the effects of Internet-administered cognitive behavioral therapy (ICBT) on CSBD, with or without paraphilia(s) or paraphilic disorder(s).

Methods: Male participants (n=36) evaluated positive according to the proposed diagnostic HD criteria, with or without paraphilia(s) or paraphilic disorder(s), received 12 weeks of ICBT. Measures were administered weekly over the treatment period, with an additional follow-up measurement 3 months after completion of treatment. The primary outcome was the Hypersexual Behavior Inventory (HBI-19). Differences in psychiatric and paraphilic symptoms were also assessed.

Results: Large, significant decreases in HD symptoms were found, as well as moderate improvements in psychiatric well-being and paraphilic symptoms. These effects remained stable 3 months after treatment.

Discussion: ICBT may be a treatment option for CSBD. Future evaluations of the treatment program should include women and larger samples in randomized controlled procedures and investigate the long-term effects.

Assisting decisions in child protection service institutions with the RIC: The Risk Indication in Child sexual abuse

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Background: The RIC (Risk Indication in Child sexual abuse) and its screening version (RIC:SV) are actuarial risk assessment instruments, developed at the Austrian Federal Evaluation Centre for Violent and Sexual Offenders and designed for child protection services to assess the likelihood of sexual recidivism in male contact child sexual abusers who still or again live within a family including children.

Objective: The RIC was designed to require a minimum of forensic information, with the RIC:SV completely waiving such information.

Participants: Nine factors related to sexual recidivism could be identified by analyzing five-year follow-up data of N = 324 male contact child sexual abusers.

Setting: The data was collected retrospectively from files between the years 2002 and 2011.

Method: Chi-Square Tests and ROC-analyses were calculated.

Results: The RIC and the RIC:SV were found to significantly predict sexual recidivism with AUC values of .84 (RIC) and .78 (RIC:SV). The items of the RIC are: (a) offender has never had a live-in relationship, (b) unstable family background of the offender, (c) impulsivity of the offender, (d) previous psychiatric treatment(s) of the offender, (e) offender has prior prison sentence/s, (f) problems of the offender to accept rules and norms, (g) offender was a stranger to his former victim(s), (h) offender had at least one male victim, and (i) offender has ever committed an extrafamilial contact child sexual abuse offense.

Conclusion: The RIC and the RIC:SV need no extensive training to be used. The results may help CPS workers to justify risk related interventions.

Psychological characteristics and offense risk among men who own sex dolls

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The ownership of sex dolls has become an increasingly controversial social issue in recent years, with many people calling for the criminalization of such dolls. At the root of these calls is the assumption that sex doll ownership contributes to increases in deviant sexual arousal and sexual offense risks among doll owners. However, there are yet to be any empirical examinations of these claims. In this work, we compare the psychological characteristics and comparative sexual aggression proclivities of sex doll owners and a non-owner comparison group using anonymous survey designs.

Doll owners scored lower than comparators in relation to sexual aggression proclivity. Compared to non-owners with sexual attractions to adults, doll owners were, however, more likely to see women as unknowable, the world as dangerous, and have lower sexual self-esteem. They also had more obsessive and emotionally stable personality styles. Compared to non-owners with sexual attractions to children, child-like doll owners were less antisocial, sexually preoccupied, and anxiously attached, but more likely to exhibit schizotypal personality traits and engage in sexually objectifying behaviors.

We use these data to begin to inform social discussions about the potentially safe use of sex dolls and how these might link to sexual abuse prevention.

Social attitudes to sex doll ownership

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The ownership of sex dolls is beginning to become a more mainstream behavior, and as such it is becoming a more prominent topic in public and academic discourse. There is a growing movement to criminalize or regulate the ownership of such dolls due to their hypothesized link to sexual violence, which contributes to a growing level of public hostility and stigma toward those who own dolls. However, there is no current measure of public attitudes toward sex dolls and their owners within the peer-reviewed literature.

Here, we report the development and initial validation of the Sex Doll Ownership Attitudes Scale (SDOAS). Using an international public sample ($N = 377$), we found that social attitudes toward sex doll owners were underpinned by three factors: ‘Acceptability of Doll Ownership’, ‘Doll Owners as Immoral’, and ‘Doll Owners as Dysfunctional’. Scores on each of these factors were predicted by participant sex, religiosity, permissive sexual attitudes, right-wing authoritarianism, and the endorsement of moral intuitions that favor personal liberty. We present a full-form version of the SDOAS, as well as an 18-item short form, both demonstrating strong psychometric properties. We highlight future uses of the SDOAS as this emerging field of study continues to grow.

Release and relapse: Understanding sexual recidivism in a sample of US Men

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Introduction: Dangerous Sexual Offender legislation exists in many Western jurisdictions and provides for the continuing (or post-sentence) detention of individuals convicted of repeated sexually violent offences. Civil Commitment (or Preventative Detention) has existed in some form in the United States since 1957, beginning in Massachusetts with the establishment of the Massachusetts Treatment Center (MTC).

Objective: This presentation examines recidivism from the perspective of more than 30 men who were referred for civil commitment at the MTC after having been determined “sexually dangerous.” The study considers the changing experience of community re-entry for men who were released from custody between the 1970s and the early 2000s.

Results: Their interviews contained rich narratives of condemnation and contamination and qualitative analysis suggested that the more recent re-entry experiences were far more negatively impacted by the increasingly restrictive registration and notification policies to which they are subject.

Discussion: An important innovation of this work is the application of a developmental and life course perspective which allowed for consideration of within individual continuity and change over time.

Understanding wellbeing and desistance in men who received treatment for sexual offending during adolescence

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Adolescents are responsible for perpetrating a significant proportion of sexual offences. Targeted, child-centred, trauma-informed, and well-timed treatment for young people is especially effective in reducing their risk of further offending. Because research and practice focus almost exclusively on measuring recidivism as an outcome, little is known about the characteristics of individuals who respond well to treatment or the circumstances under which success is most likely. This study considers the broader aspects of a hard-to-reach group by focusing on the wellbeing, resilience, and desistance outcomes of intervention. This study constitutes a first-of-its-kind 20 year follow up of a large sample of men who—during adolescence—received GYFS treatment following adjudication for a serious sexual offence. Since 2001, GYFS has provided specialised assessment to almost 800 individuals and subsequently treated approximately 400 young men across the state. In this study, we review the exit reports of 70 treatment participants and explore the psycho-social situations associated with resilience. To that end, we consider: mastery (e.g. employment, training, or education); attachment (e.g. romantic relationships, peer connections, or caregiving responsibilities), connection to community/country (e.g. sports, church, or culture); and improved physical and mental health.

A Delphi study on barriers to CSA prevention and intervention programs in the European Union

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The EU-funded project PRIORITY aims to reduce the incidence of child sexual abuse by examining barriers to prevention and intervention programs for individuals with a sexual interest in children. As part of that effort, a Delphi study is conducted with a newfound European Stakeholder and Practitioner Network, a network consisting of prevention experts from all EU member states. The Delphi study evaluates barriers to prevention both on an EU- and a national level. By identifying barriers, we aim to reduce those in the long term and thus facilitate access to prevention and intervention programs in the future. In this context, we aim to further disseminate the online intervention “Prevent It” – supported by network members.

The data collection is taking place in three rounds. The first round includes some closed and semi-closed questions as well as several open questions to generate a large number of diverging statements. This presentation will discuss initial results from the first round regarding existing prevention and intervention programs as well as structural and individual barriers in the EU member states.

Talking for Change: The evaluation of Canada's first anonymous child sexual abuse perpetration prevention helpline

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Background: Talking for Change (TFC) is a secondary prevention program that targets individuals at-risk of perpetrating child sexual abuse. The anonymous arm of the program includes a helpline, wherein mental health professionals provide strategies and assist individuals to reduce risk of online or offline offending against a child.

Method: Helpline users are offered single sessions of intervention wherein self-reported levels of mental health and risk to offend estimates at the start and end of contact are gathered to provide an estimate of improvement in functioning. General features of the contact, the users, and the situations described by the users were also conducted.

Results: Analyses of helpline data demonstrated significant change over a single session in distress, hopelessness, and suicidal ideation. Helpline users reported reduction in their perceived risk for online and offline offending subsequent to the helpline contact. A post-interaction survey suggests a proof-of-concept for measurement of short-term impact of the helpline.

Conclusions: A helpline intervention has demonstrated an impact on reductions in perceived risk to offend, distress, hopelessness, and suicidality.

Impact: The anonymous arm of TFC offers an accessible and feasible service for individuals at-risk of perpetration to access resources, knowledge, and support to reduce the risk of offending.

ACUTE-2007 and STABLE-2007 predict recidivism for men adjudicated for child sexual exploitation material offending

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There are limited options for validated risk assessment tools with individuals convicted of Child Sexual Exploitation Materials (CSEM) offenses. The current study examined the predictive validity of the ACUTE-2007 and STABLE-2007 sexual recidivism risk tools among men with CSEM offenses. We compared the scales' discrimination and calibration across three groups: (a) 1,042 men with contact sexual offenses against children (baseline comparison), (b) 228 men with exclusive CSEM offending (no contact sexual offenses), and (c) 80 men with both contact sexual offenses and CSEM offenses. We found that the ACUTE-2007 and STABLE-2007 total scores and items had comparable (and often better) discrimination for men with CSEM offending compared to contact sexual offending against children in the prediction of any sexual recidivism, violent recidivism, and any recidivism. Calibration analyses indicated that the overall sexual recidivism rates for the median ACUTE-2007 and STABLE-2007 scores were similar for those with exclusive CSEM offenses compared to men with any contact offending against children. This study supports the use of these tools to rank order men with CSEM offending in terms of their risk to reoffend and to help direct treatment and management efforts.

Sex offences in a lifespan perspective. Experiences and new perspectives

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This lesson will give a brief overview of the history of sex offender treatment and discuss some of the most important challenges for the future.

Adults committing sex offences have once been children and young persons; some of them started their offending career already as a child or an adolescent. In therapy, we can see how childhood and adulthood interact with each other. Sometimes it seems arbitrary who becomes a victim and who becomes an offender. However, psychological factors alone do not explain why some persons offend sexually. Ideas about masculinity, femininity and sexuality are part of overarching, general, ideological attitudes in the society, influencing on how we understand sexual behavior as well as sexual offences.

In the recent years, internet and electronic media have created new challenges to the treatment field. Internet disrupts the differences between fantasy and reality. A wide range of questions then emerge; such as the perception of what a sexual offence might be, what is the difference between fantasy and reality, and how should the relation between online offences and hands-on offences be understood.

To meet the complexity of sexual offending behavior, we have to realize that there are victims and predators on both sides of the line, from early childhood to late adulthood. When developing new strategies for treatment and prevention, we therefore must have a lifespan perspective on the plans.

Web-based treatment for individuals who sexually offend: A systematic review on efficacy and issues

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In recent years, there has been an increase of individuals convicted for sexual offenses as well as an increase of CSAM content distributed through the internet. Nonetheless, there is a shortage of programs aimed at preventing these types of offenses, especially those that are easily accessible by individuals at risk. Web-based programs provide a solution that avoids many of the barriers associated with in-person treatment, such as geographic restrictions and stigmatization. Due to this, and technological advances, there has been an emergence of web-based interventions for individuals who sexually offend. Besides this, the application of web-based interventions for other psychiatric disorders (i.e., depression, eating disorders) is supported by prior research. The increase of interventions as such emphasizes the importance to evaluate these online programs for individuals who sexually offend. This presentation will discuss the systematic review on web-based sexual offense treatment offers, touching upon their efficacy and issues.

Summary of current EU-funded prevention projects related to minor attracted persons

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Currently, EU-funded prevention projects seem to get more and more into the focus (e.g. Priority and Bridge, whereby the UKE is part of the project and team). It can be difficult sometimes to recognize differences and overlaps. In a poster presentation, the goal of the various projects as well as the differences, similarities, synergies and expected results will be summarized. This will not only give an overview of the ongoing projects. They also make ongoing joint work easier, so that a larger network and association can be created in the context of preventing child abuse.

Is it possible to see whether people's pattern of sexual arousal in adolescence can help predict committing sexual assaults?

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The purpose of this presentation is to give an insight into the knowledge about people's sexual arousal in adolescence. The presentation seeks to provide information about whether those who commit sexual abuse against children as adults already had a pattern of sexual arousal that deviates from the usual, as a young person. Sexual arousal patterns is understood as a sexual ignition which can be experienced as burdensome, both for those who have it, their loved ones and society in general (abnormal sexual arousal).

The project asks whether early detection and recognition of abnormal sexual arousal can form a direction for developing preventive measures, and hopefully the project increases understanding, by listening to the participants' own experience of their sexuality and how the environment reacts to the sexuality displayed.

The presentation refers to a retrospective study of 11 men who were convicted of sexual assault. It shows how semi-structured interviews can be used, to best find the participants' experience of their own sexuality between the ages of 12-19. The presentation shows a qualitative connections based on the question „Which pattern of sexual arousal did men who have been convicted of sexual abuse in their youth have, and in what ways have the men experienced being different from their peers in the same regard. period?“, using a qualitative method, Constructing Grounded Theory.

The presentation will seek to show a summary of the results from the study, and will present how several factors can contribute to establishing patterns of sexual arousal, such as developing a rigid and active sex life, difficulties in establishing sexual and emotional relationships with peers, experiences with a great degree of loneliness and isolation and developing sexuality alone and in a digital world.

Finally, a connection between the abuse pattern, sexual arousal and attachment style, will be discussed. The project presents and confirms the difficulties in conversing patterns of sexual arousal that include being sexually aroused by minors, and shows how difficult it is to talk about and admit sexual patterns and preferences that most people view with disgust. The importance of young people having an adult who is close to them and who dares to be curious about their experiences, thoughts and feelings, without being intrusive, is shown.

Narrating agency in investigative interviews of online sexual abusers

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Internet has provided new arenas for sexual abuse of children, and understanding how and why people commit these offenses are vital for preventing further abuse. Research has proposed different typologies to understand what drives people to commit sexual offenses against children, and debated whether online sexual abuse offenders are different from contact offenders in terms of e.g. age, criminal background, and educational background. In this paper, we analyse the offenders' own explanations of their behavioral patterns; how people convicted of online sexual abuse of children narrate their stories.

We analyzed investigative interviews conducted by police. We included a total of 15 cases; all men convicted of sexual abuse of children via internet. We used discourse analysis framework, with emphasis on discursive resources and discursive strategies.

Our analysis demonstrated how offenders narrate agency within hegemonic discourses of social desirability, where their own actions and patterns of behaviors were narrated as different from a more stereotypical offender. Further, they used different discursive strategies in order to position themselves either as «accidental» sexual abuse offenders or as «normal» internet users with diverse sexual preferences.

Complex associations between stigma experiences and willingness to seek therapy among pedohebephilic people

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Background: There is concern that pedohebephilic individuals might be deterred from seeking therapy because of the stigma associated with their sexual attraction. Yet, prior research has revealed mixed evidence regarding the link between stigma-related stress and willingness to seek therapy. In this talk, we present a model that simultaneously incorporates different aspects of stigma-related stress (anticipated stigma, internalized stigma, and anticipation of negative consequences of disclosure in therapy) as determinants of willingness to seek therapy, alongside mental health, well-being, and knowledge about psychotherapy.

Method: An online survey was conducted among 286 individuals whose self-reported sexual attraction to prepubescent or pubescent children was equal to or surpassed their sexual attraction to adults. Data was analyzed using structural equation modeling.

Results: Higher willingness to seek therapy was predicted by stronger internalized stigma, lower expectations of negative consequences of disclosure in therapy, and more knowledge about psychotherapy. Anticipated stigma did not predict willingness to seek therapy.

Discussion: Our results show that different facets of stigma show opposing associations with willingness to seek therapy. This may explain why previous studies present contradictory evidence with regards to the role of stigma experience and willingness to seek therapy.

Secret-keeping in therapy by clients who are sexually attracted to children

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Background: Pedohebephilic individuals often choose not to disclose their sexual attraction to children to their therapist. Yet, no prior research has assessed what guided their decisions to disclose or not disclose, as well as the perceived consequences of this decision.

Method: We conducted an online survey among individuals whose self-reported sexual attraction to prepubescent or pubescent children was equal to or surpassed their sexual attraction to adults and had non-mandated treatment experiences ($N = 137$).

Results: About a third ($n = 40$) have not disclosed their attraction to their last therapist. Disclosure was not related to self-rated outcomes of therapy but was positively linked to the strength of the therapeutic alliance. Positive perceived disclosure effects were related to better self-reported treatment outcomes. Thematic analysis identified themes concerning motives for the decision to disclose or not disclose and differential impacts of this decision.

Discussion: Our findings do not indicate that clients who have disclosed benefit more from treatment than those who did not disclose. Yet, those who have disclosed and received therapist support, perceived better treatment outcomes than those who have disclosed and did not receive support.

Supporting context figures of (potential) sex offenders: Stop it Now! the Netherlands (NL)

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The inner circle of (potential) offenders plays an important role in the prevention of child sexual abuse. Through the initiatives of Stop it Now NL we can empower these relatives. Next to this preventative aspect, relatives are also often a victim of the situation. Generally, they are overlooked victims. Their seeking for information and support is tremendous.

From the founding of SiN NL we offer support groups for relatives. Recognition, acknowledgement and support are important aspects. Also, relatives often have the need to share stories, fears and questions. During the Covid-19 period, we ran a pilot with an online group. Currently, SiN NL is working on a more structured feedback loop from those who attended the support groups to get a better effect measurement over the time. Last year, SiN NL expanded, together with Stop it Now! Flanders, their offering by adding a section for relatives on the self-help website 'It is Possible to Stop'. In January 2023, we also launched a forum for relatives together. The subscriptions to this forum grow every month. This presentation will give an overview with statistics, background and case examples.

From Prevent It to Prevent It 2.0: Manual revisions

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³ EU-funded project PRIORITY (Prevention to Reduce Incidence Of Sexual Abuse by Reaching Individuals Concerned About Their Risk to Young People). The project is a collaboration between researchers at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden, Universitaetsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf in Germany, Universidade do Porto, The Royal Ottawa Institute of Mental Health Research in Canada, and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA. PI: Peer Briken

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Following the promising results of the first clinical trial of Prevent It, a revised and updated version of the treatment program has been developed. In this methodological presentation, we will describe the process of revising and updating an already existing treatment program based on patient feedback, therapist experiences, and statistical analyses. The program has also been adapted to fit a wider target group – individuals (>18 years old) who are concerned about their sexual urges towards children but do not necessarily have an ongoing criminal behavior. To reach at-risk individuals and offer preventative treatment, innovative recruitment methods are needed. Following interviews with individuals with pedophilic disorder, the idea to use an outreaching approach online was born. Thus, in these follow-up randomized controlled trials, individuals who are concerned about their sexual urges towards children are recruited via encrypted web forums on the Darknet, advertisements on search engines and social media, and by referral from the police. Reaching a larger proportion of at-risk individuals and providing them with evidence-based and effective care is an important part of the preventive work against CSA.

An introduction to the Violence Risk Appraisal Guide - Revised (VRAG-R): Development and subsequent cross-validation on European, Canadian, and other samples

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Following its publication in 2015, the Violence Risk Appraisal Guide – Revised (VRAG-R) has been cross-validated on multiple samples of treated and untreated European and Canadian adult male offenders, and older juveniles. To date, cross-validation of the VRAG-R has generally demonstrated large effect sizes for the prediction of violent and general recidivism and moderate effect sizes for the prediction of sexual recidivism. Additional developments include the publication of risk ratios for 5-year recidivism rates (Davies, Helmus, & Quinsey, 2020) and translation of the VRAG-R into German, Dutch and French. This workshop will summarize recent developments with the VRAG-R including the cross-validation research, application to various populations, and the utility of risk-ratios in communicating relative-risk to triers of fact. This workshop will also serve as a foundation for formal training on administration of the VRAG-R should attendees wish to begin utilizing the VRAG-R for clinical or research purposes.

Secondary trauma in forensic professionals working with perpetrators of sexual violence

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Secondary trauma can lead to symptoms such as fatigue, tension, irritability, mood lability, loss of concentration, insomnia and ultimately burnout and absenteeism. Individuals employed in certain occupational sectors, such as healthcare and public safety, appear to be more at risk for secondary stress because of their constant exposure to troubling social problems and to individuals with extremely challenging behaviors. Most research has focused on secondary trauma in mental health and police service professionals but relatively little attention has been paid to this kind of trauma in forensic care professionals although forensic care is considered a stressful, dangerous and emotionally demanding environment. Because of frequent confrontation with explicit information about sexual violence, professionals who treat perpetrators of sexual violence may experience hyper alertness to their own and others' behavior, especially toward children, and may face intrusive images and thoughts about case material. In this presentation, findings from a recent Dutch study on secondary trauma in forensic professionals working with perpetrators of sexual violence will be presented. The study aimed to examine the extent to which secondary traumatization occurs in forensic care professionals, and whether secondary traumatization is influenced by coping, social support, empathy, mental resilience, and the personality trait "openness".

The court of public opinion: Public perceptions towards perpetrators of sexual violence

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The field of forensic mental healthcare is subject to scrutiny and stigmatization from both media and the public. The term „stigma“ comes from the Greek expression for „mark“ and refers to the negative evaluation of traits or characteristics of a person. Sexual crimes, especially those committed against children, typically provoke growing public concern about persons with sexual offense histories living in communities. Public attitudes towards these individuals are consistently negative, often fueled by stereotypes, myths, and/or distorted portrayals in the media which stereotype all persons with sexual offense histories as “predators”, as high risk for reoffending and all persons who sexual offended against children as pedophiles. Societal negativity can act as a hindrance to successful community reintegration after receiving mandated care. Addressing the public’s negative attitudes and reforming the ways in which sexual offenders are managed within the community are important topics to consider when promoting re-entry and normalcy. In this presentation, findings from a recent study on public perceptions towards perpetrators of sexual violence in The Netherlands will be presented. This study focused on (societal) factors that directly or indirectly influence public stigmatization of people with sexual offence histories, such as political views, knowledge, education level, and specific personality traits.

Visualized EU mapping of institutional face-to-face (F2F) therapy services for people at risk of committing child sexual abuse

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In the context of fighting child sexual abuse and improving the safety of children, EU countries need to be enabled and develop measures to protect children through prevention. By providing preventative services to individuals who are concerned about perpetrating a sexual crime against children and adolescents, we can safeguard children from exploitation. In recent years, information has emerged about which EU member state is implementing what kind of institutional prevention programs (F2F, online-based, hotline services). Unfortunately, not all of the scattered information about face-to-face therapies in the EU has been truly summarized, let alone visualized. This poster aims to simplify and illustrate the data collected by the EU countries to provide a better understanding of the density and information about institutional F2F therapies as a fruitful foundation for preventive services as well as further research in health care.

Inpatient treatment program for sex offenders in Bohnice Psychiatric Hospital, Prague

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The authors present a model of protective inpatient treatment of sexual offenders who have been court ordered to receive such treatment after committing sexual offenses (usually after having served their sentence). The reason for ordering protective treatment was usually a diagnostic statement by a forensic expert that when the offense was committed, the perpetrator's recognition or control abilities were significantly reduced due to his sexual motivation system disorder, i.e. due to the presence of sexual pathology - paraphilia.

Our patients - sex offenders are placed in the Prague Psychiatric Hospital Bohnice, where there is a separate sexology ward within the Protective Treatment Department. It is a closed ward with a strict community regime and it has 21 beds. It was founded in 1986 and launched its activities on January 1, 1987. The therapeutic system is based on three key components: biological (medication), psychotherapeutic (working with group dynamics both in small therapeutic groups and in a large group - the Community of All Patients), and the socio-therapeutic regime. The average duration of treatment is in the order of years. The treatment is evaluated as successful, with a relapse score of less than 20% taking into account all patients (several hundreds) treated there over the 34 years of the ward existence.

The cognitive assumptions of treatment and therapeutic system are presented and the basic prerequisite of a successful treatment is emphasized: convincing the patients - offenders to engage in therapeutic cooperation. In this respect, the overall therapeutic atmosphere of the department plays a major role as an essential factor in group dynamics. Certain complications in the treatment are discussed, such as mental handicaps of some patients, illiteracy, denial of crime or their sexual motivation, drug use, modern virtual ways of sexually pathological behavior, etc.

Hypersexual and paraphilic behavior disorders in ICD-11 & DSM-5-TR

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Paraphilic and compulsive sexual behavior disorders have been contained in the International Classification of Disease manuals published by the World Health Organization since it included mental health diagnoses in 1948 and in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manuals of the American Psychiatric Association since its inception in 1952. Significant modifications of both of these diagnostic entities in both of these manuals have been made since their most recent previous editions. This presentation will briefly review the history of these disorders in each manual, the significant recent changes, the implications thereof, and the development of research interest in these entities.

The why, the who and the wherefore. Explanations, self-change and social friction in men's narratives of sexual violations

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In this address, I ask and try to answer the question of what we can learn from the stories that men convicted of sex offenses tell about their sexually violent acts – and the stories they tell about themselves as a person who has committed such acts.

From a narrative criminology approach, the stories told of past harmdoing by those responsible for doing harm may affect their future behavior. This is because experience is simultaneously represented and (re-)constructed in the telling of narratives, the meaning-making it entails and how storytelling contributes to (dis-)integrate harmdoing into a broader narrative of self, identity and future. The first part of this address will zoom in on the explanations – the why stories – that the 17 men I interviewed for my PhD project (2015-2020) gave in response to questions about how they ended up committing sexual violence.

Social responses to violence – and to stories of violence – may (re-)produce dominant understandings of violence and the harm resulting from it. However, social responses also carry subversive potential to redefine such understandings, potentially recognizing new forms of violence or harm and pushing narratives about selves and acts in new directions.

In the second part of the address, I will discuss the meaning and impact of social responses in and on developing narratives of committing and being convicted for sexual violence. The interpersonal responses that the participants encountered after having committed and been convicted for sex offences turned out to be important factors in the processes they engaged in to make sense of, and come to terms with, their acts and experiences. Some responses were pushing the men to re-evaluate their concepts of violation, violence and consent. Other responses were reinforcing experiences of having been unfairly treated by a victim-centered, over-vigilant justice system, and yet other responses caused stigma, fear and social isolation. Examples of responses and their impact in and on the men's stories will be discussed in relation to narrative criminological thinking, as well as theorization on what helps or hinders desistance, rehabilitation and reintegration.

The power of disclosing sibling sexual abuse

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Research thus far indicates that SSA has extremely harmful immediate and long-term implications for both children who have harmed and who have been harmed, such as drug abuse, mental health conditions, dangerous sexual conduct and an increased likelihood of re-victimisation (Beard et al., 2013; Morrill, 2014; Stroebel et al., 2013). Current understanding and research within this area is insufficient, therefore, it is imperative that future research is undertaken which aims to establish a disclosure model, which can be utilised by practitioners to encourage disclosures of SSA to take place as soon as possible. The facilitation of disclosures will allow for therapeutic interventions to take place and support to be offered to the survivor and elevating the negative long and short term impacts of the abuse. This research will build an evidence base, allowing for a greater understanding of the impacts of SSA and prevalence rates. The research will also shape how interventions and responses are delivered in practice.

Sexual abuse. Pedophilia, psychiatry, and legal certainty

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It is important, however, to realize that pedophile disorder is not one kind of disorder from a psychodynamic point of view, but a disorder that has many different developmental courses and with varying degrees of risk of relapse. It should therefore be called pedosexual behavior covering different disorders. As it will work today, the legal system will use the diagnosis as one type of disorder with no possibility of differentiation related to risk of relapse. The way it is formulated in DSM-5 is an undifferentiated use of the diagnosis which will be a serious breach of legal certainty.

Lay perception of the internet child abusers

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Perpetrators who use the internet to contact and commit abuse against children are characterized by, among other things, that they are younger, have more education, commit less other criminal activity than contact offenders. In contrast, studies (e.g. Lam et al., 2010) have found that there is a difference between lay perceptions and the empirical evidence outlined above relating to internet child sexual abusers. The lay person rates the internet sexual offender as more likely to make contact offences, and giving a higher rating for pedophilia, than what is shown in empirical studies (Babchishin et al., 2015).

In this study, we aimed to explore how lay persons describe the perpetrators, the role of the internet and the pathways into becoming an online child abuser. An online survey was distributed in Norway in February 2023. 640 responded, 76 percent were female, mean age 34.97(SD = 14.29), and the majority had >.70 % had higher education, and 44 percent had children. Having children was associated with attitudes towards sentencing, while gender and education were not strong predictors for either attitudes towards sentencing or attitudes towards the online abusers. Those working with online child abuse have more positive attitudes towards the online child abusers.

Applying the RNR principles to novel correctional programs for people who sexually offended

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Sexual offending is a severe and complex public health problem. Current forensic psychological treatment practice promotes the application of Andrews and Bonta's empirically-based Risk, Need and Responsivity (RNR) principles also to the treatment of individuals at risk of sexual (re)offending. To align risk management with RNR, the Swedish Prison and Probation Service recently developed two interventions based on RNR principles: the shorter and manual-based program Consent for people at lower risk to reoffend and the more extensive and flexible program SEIF for those at higher recidivism risk. We will describe the programs and a planned research project that aims to map needs and responsivity factors among SEIF and Consent participants, evaluate possible effects of Consent within a randomized waitlist-controlled trial, and to examine the feasibility of the programs for females who have committed sexual offences.

Preventing child sexual abuse material use: Prevent It RCT results

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The use of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) is a global problem of substantial magnitude. To investigate whether CSAM viewing time could be reduced, we evaluated Prevent It; an eight-week, therapist-supported, online cognitive behavioral therapy in a global single-blinded (participants), randomized, psychological placebo-controlled trial. With an out-reach approach, we recruited anonymous CSAM users over the internet, mainly from Darknet. Inclusion criteria were age 18+ years, past week CSAM use, and sufficient English language skills. Exclusion criteria were severe psychiatric illness or non-serious intent to participate. The study was preregistered (ISRCTN76841676) and the 160 participants were from all world regions and typically men (157 male, 3 non-binary/not reporting gender). We randomized participants to Prevent It (N=80) or psychological placebo (N=80). Analyses suggested a small but significant difference favoring Prevent It over placebo regarding the primary outcome; self-reported weekly viewing time pre- to post-treatment (Prevent It: N=76, Placebo: N=78, estimate -0.25, 95 % CI, -0.46 to -0.04, Cohen's d 0.18). Prevent It participants reported fewer and milder negative side effects, and more positive treatment experiences. No severe adverse events were reported. This trial suggested initial support for the feasibility, efficacy, and safety of Prevent It in reducing CSAM use among difficult-to-reach individuals.

Online child pornography offenders in France: Presentation of a multidisciplinary research program

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In France, the problem of online child pornography offences has not been the subject of a systematic study, unlike in other countries (United States, Canada, etc.) where this issue has been studied since the 1990s. Our knowledge is therefore fragmentary, mainly derived from case studies that propose several psychopathological hypotheses without questioning the authors' practices. Our research project is multidisciplinary (psychology, sociology, law) and involves academics and professionals in the field.

On the one hand, following a descriptive, sociological and penal approach to the phenomenon, based on the analysis of legal files, it aims to:

- Describe the practices of online child pornography convicted in France
- Observe the judicial treatment of these practices
- Analyze the sociodemographic and criminological profiles of perpetrators.

On the other hand, from a clinical point of view, the aim is to:

- Draw up an inventory of care modalities
- Better understand the history and personality of the perpetrators encountered in the care services
- Reflect on the therapeutic and preventive tools for this problem.

We will therefore present the stakes of this research (which is financially supported by the Institute of Advanced Studies of the French Ministry of Interior) and the initial results.

Professional experiences of working with people who are attracted to children

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There is a desire and need among people experiencing attractions to children to access support within the community, and this often begins with healthcare providers working in general medical/mental health settings. However, little is known about the experiences of these professionals in relation to their beliefs, knowledge, and decision-making processes. Using an online survey, we explored the knowledge, comfort, competence, and treatment willingness of more than 350 specialist and non-specialist healthcare providers. We investigated how often disclosures of sexual attractions to children were made, levels of clinician stigma, treatment priorities, and professionals' willingness to report such patients to external agencies.

We found that professionals without specialist training were more likely to view this group as being dangerous and unable to control behaviors. All groups prioritized mental health treatment targets above controlling attractions and living with stigmatized attractions, although controlling or changing attractions were still relatively high priorities. We compare these treatment prioritization data to responses provided by patients themselves to explore the alignment between professional and service user goals.

We close with recommendations related to further training focusing on increasing comfort around working with MAPs, as this was associated with a greater willingness to work with this group.

Understanding the lived experiences of men who own sex dolls

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The ownership of sex dolls has become an increasingly discussed phenomenon in recent years, with legal scholars and legislators calling for increased regulation and criminalization. However, the literature is currently lacking an understanding as to why some men might own a sex doll, and how they play a functional role in owners' lives.

In this study, we interviewed owners of sex dolls about their motivations and experiences. Two main themes were elicited from the data using interpretative phenomenological analysis. Firstly, doll owners conceptualized their dolls as the 'perfect' partner after identifying perceived deficits in themselves and others that made dating real women difficult. In the second theme, sex doll or love doll?, participants spoke about how they distinguish between human partners and their dolls. Dolls were perceived as sex toys primarily used to obtain sexual gratification that owners also cared for away from sexual activity. Relatedly, social discussions and experiences of stigma related to others' perceptions of their sexual deviance brought great emotional pain.

In understanding doll ownership in this way, we add to ongoing discussions about the types of people who own dolls, why they do so, and how dolls act as a functional aspect of owners' lives.

Looping disruption: A relational mechanism enhancing treatment readiness among individuals convicted of sexual offending

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Several meta-analyses and systematic reviews conclude sex offender treatment is associated with decreased risk of re-offending. Nevertheless, a substantial number of individuals convicted of sexual offenses (ISO) do not enter and complete treatment programs in prisons, limiting prevention of recidivism. Treatment readiness is a multifactorial concept referring to the preparedness of the client and the treatment provider (Ward et al., 2004). Hence, readiness not only encompasses internal motivation of the client but also contexts and processes that facilitate or hinder treatment engagement. However, such underlying processes are not well studied and even less is known regarding readiness in the ISO sub-population.

This presentation aims to describe an exploratory study of psychosocial processes and contextual factors related to treatment readiness from the vantage point of ISOs' lived experiences. In-depth interviews were conducted with 19 ISOs in Swedish prisons (treatment participants, N=13, as well as non-participants, N=6).

The (preliminary) thematic analysis illustrates readiness obstacles in terms of antagonistic, non-rehabilitative, forces in the correctional system, conceptually understood using Goffman's (1961) term looping. Nonetheless, relational processes appeared to reverse such negative, punitive, loops and mitigate fear as well as mistrust, contributing to the mobilization of treatment readiness.

Participants' experiences of sex offender treatment: Searching for desisting narrative identities

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Desistance research have emphasized social relationships, significant life events and role transitions when trying to explain the cessation of offending. Nevertheless, individuals convicted of sexual offenses appear to differ from general offenders concerning such turning points. Instead, studies demonstrate treatment program experiences are more pronounced in the desistance narratives of individuals convicted of sexual offenses. Nevertheless, desistance scholars have not engaged much in deeper examination into how treatment might facilitate desistance.

This study investigates treatment experience within a desistance framework. Thirteen incarcerated adult men who participated in a new Swedish sex offender program were interviewed, using teller-focused interviews.

The thematic analysis suggests initial development of new, desisting narrative identities where the offenses were explained and re-integrated into a coherent internalized life story. A holistic, person-centred treatment environment appeared to have enabled this process and contributed to a sense of being an acceptable person, despite the seriousness of the offense, and the promotion of active responsibility. It seems, however, that the reintegration of these individuals requires raised attention to stigma management post-release as well as social support.

The Therapist Rating Scale-Revised (TRS-2): Pre- and post-therapy underlying structure and correlates in two independent samples

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The Therapist Rating Scale Revised (TRS-2; Marshall & Marshall, 2011) was developed to aid post-treatment reporting and decision-making. The TRS-2 contains 10 variables reflecting empirically derived dynamic risk factors and treatment engagement variables (e.g., Mann, Hanson, & Thornton, 2010).

The first study explored therapists' pre-treatment ratings of adult male individuals (N = 47) convicted of sexual offences within the Swedish Prison and Probation Service. Factor analysis demonstrated a two-factor solution where factors were named "Relating Responsibly to Others" and Positive Control over Oneself".

The second study was conducted on data from various correctional settings in Canada where the second author (Marshall) provided supervision to therapists delivering treatment programming to adult males (N = 229) convicted of sexual offences. The factor analysis of TRS-2 post-treatment scores revealed two factors titled "Life Skills" and "Relapse Prevention". The predictive power on sexual reoffending of these subscales was found to be moderate to high (Rice & Harris, 2005), "Life Skills" AUC = .75, $p = .001$, "Relapse Prevention" AUC = .68, $p = .012$.

The results adds further support to the TRS-2 being a useful measure of post-treatment risk. The measure appears to be influenced by the timing of administration, and the provision of therapy.

How to make a sexual offender? Consequences of the genetics research on pedophilia

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Långström et al have shown that sexual offending has a very limited genetic component. We much therefore conclude that sexual offenders are mainly made, not born. But which processes have the potential to make sexual offenders out of ordinary children?

Traditionally all people that show a sexual interest in children have been diagnosed with pedophilia and have been put in the same treatment group. However, behind the traditional diagnosis of pedophilia is a rather heterogenous group of clients with different types of backgrounds, internal organizations and origins.

A more multi-factorial diagnosis system based partly on the origin of the symptom would help therapists to choose the most efficient treatment and make research on pedophilia more accurate.

The author exemplifies this by presenting four different categories of pedophiles needing different types of treatment. Hopefully this will inspire other therapists and researchers to develop a more functional and heterogenous pedophilia diagnosis that will help us to construct improved treatments and facilitate clinical research.

A descriptive model of voyeuristic behavior

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Over the last 50 years, there has been a plethora of research exploring sexual offending with a more recent focus on online sexual offending given the ever-changing technological landscape. However, although convictions and media awareness have been growing rapidly, research into the sexual offence of voyeurism has been scarce. Currently, there is no theoretical or empirical literature which can be utilized to guide research and practice despite practitioners repeatedly urging for this. As a result, 17 men who had engaged in voyeurism were interviewed on the cognitive, affective, behavioural, and contextual factors leading up to and surrounding their offence(s). Grounded theory analyses were used to develop a temporal model from background factors to post-offence factors; the Descriptive Model of Voyeurism (DMV). The model highlights the key vulnerability factors for men engaging in voyeurism. Following this, the same 17 men were plotted through the model identifying three key pathways: Sexual Gratification, Maladaptive Connection Seeking, and Access to Inappropriate Person(s). The key characteristics of each pathway are discussed and treatment implications considered.

Voyeurism: What is it and what do we know so far?

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Over the last 50 years, there has been a plethora of research exploring sexual offending with a recent focus on online offending. However, currently, there is sparse theoretical or empirical literature to guide research and practice for individuals engaging in voyeuristic behaviors despite convictions and media awareness growing rapidly. Voyeurism has been, and continues to be, a growing problem worldwide, particularly with technology-use rising. This session will give an overview of what is known about voyeurism to date. First, the history of voyeurism will be discussed and how this has contributed to the conceptualization and subsequent difficulties with defining voyeurism. Following this, an overview of the research to date will be given from that conducted primarily in the 1980's through to the present day. This will include the most recent findings on the descriptive pathways individuals take to engage with voyeurism, the psychological characteristics associated with voyeurism engagement, and the relationship between sexual interest and voyeurism. The implications of the work presented will be discussed along with the limitations and future directions.

One size does not fit all: The combination reaction of stalking and sexual violence, in the assessment of risk

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Background: An estimated 1.2 million people have been stalked in the last year, with women disproportionately victimized. Stalking is not an isolated event and is usually associated to sexual violence. However, there is a lack of research on how these forms of violence are interacting, and how stalking increases the risk of sexual violence. Evidence-based approaches to tackle these forms of violence are much needed.

Aims: The current presentation is proposing a holistic approach to study stalking's risk factors and how its interaction with sexual violence impact the outcomes. A careful consideration of context should increase our ability to predict the risk of violence and future-related offences in context of stalking and allow professionals to elaborate effective prevention and treatment.

Methodology: Results from three samples will be presented: 1) N = 1032 victims' accounts, who had contacted the UK National Stalking Helpline; 2) N = 319 self-reports from the general population, and 3) N = 550 non-convicted perpetrators. Preliminary results from a project on convicted perpetrators, including sexual murderers, will also be presented.

Data analysis: Univariate analyses (i.e., Frequency), Bivariate analyses (i.e., t-test and correlations) and Multivariate analyses (i.e., Taxometric, Two-parameter Item Response Theory, Mediation & Regression) will be presented.

Results: Overall results revealed that the risk of violent outcomes is significantly increasing with the convergence of stalking and sexual violence. Context (i.e., current or previous intimate relationship), Gender (i.e., men), Dark Traits (i.e., Psychopathy, Sadism & Narcissism), level of fixation, predatory behaviours, sexual deviance, and propensity to sexual harassment and sexual coercion are elements that significantly increase the risk of severe sexual and non-sexual violence, including lethal outcome. These results strengthened the urgent need to develop stalking evidence-based actuarial risk assessment tools.

Rape Myth Acceptance scale: An Item Response Theory analysis

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Background: Self-report surveys revealed that approximately 2.5% of women in England and Wales have been a victim of a sexual violence in the previous 12 months, and less than a third will eventually report it to the authorities. Many reasons have been used to explain why such a small proportion of sexual assaults are reported to authorities, including victim blaming attitudes. These attitudes are called Rape Myths and are defined as false beliefs about rape that are used to move the blame from the perpetrators to the victim.

Aims: The uIRMA, a 22-item scale, is the most established rape myth acceptance measure. While the psychometric properties of the uIRMA are excellent, no studies to date have assessed the latent structure of the scale through Item Response Theory (IRT). Furthermore, there is a lack of knowledge on the psychometric properties of the uIRMA with non-binary identifying persons.

Methodology: The sample is composed of N = 1636 participants from the general populations, composed of female (n = 896, 54.8%), male (n = 460, 28.1%) and non-binary identifying (n = 280; 17.1%).

Data analysis: Univariate analyses (i.e., frequency), Two-parameters Item Response Theory and Exploratory Factor Analysis will be presented.

Results: As hypothesized, the uIRMA is discriminating adequately across genders and items, with all items being within the recommended thresholds, further supporting the good psychometric properties of the scale. Furthermore, the difficulty level of corresponding items was lower for men than women and non-binary individuals, with men endorsing with more ease Rape Myth at all levels. However, analyses revealed psychometric concerns with the use of the uIRMA among non-binary participants, with few items being endorsed at b₄ level, indicating that the scale might not be suitable for all genders.

Patients' experiences with "Det finnes hjelp": A low-threshold health service for adults with a sexual interest in children

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As the majority of child sexual abuse convictions are first-time offences, there is a need for increased emphasis on preventing initial offending. Det Finnes Hjelp (There is help) was established in 2020 by the Norwegian Directorate of Health as a low-threshold treatment program for adults with a sexual interest in children, or with a self-identified risk of committing sexual offences against minors. Treatment guidelines are based on Risk-Needs-Responsivity principles, cognitive behaviour therapy and strengths-based approaches.

Purpose of the study: To explore the participants' subjective experience with seeking psychological treatment for their sexual attraction to children, and their perceived treatment needs and overall satisfaction with treatment.

Methods: A qualitative study with a phenomenological approach to data analyses. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with 15-25 patients at Det Finnes Hjelp in Tromsø and Trondheim. Data collection will take place throughout 2023 and 2024.

Implications: The goal of the treatment in Det Finnes Hjelp is to prevent future sexual offences. A better understanding of patients' experiences may help inform the further development of the treatment program and aid therapy recruitment and engagement.

Community-based case management & the experiences of registered persons in New Zealand

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Sexual violence and abuse against children is a significant societal issue. The New Zealand Register was established in 2016 as one initiative to reduce the risk of reoffending of individuals who have sexually offended against children. It is relatively unique in its approach to managing registered persons, adopting a rehabilitative approach informed by international theory and research. To date, the majority of research relating to the effectiveness and experience of supervision and registration is from other jurisdictions. Furthermore, there remains a lack of research internationally regarding the experiences of registered persons themselves in terms of being on the Register and receiving community-based supervision. Such information has the potential to inform the improvement of policy and practice, which can in turn help to optimise interventions and ultimately reduce recidivism. In an attempt to help fill this gap, I conducted in-depth interviews with registered persons throughout New Zealand to understand their experiences and perceptions of being on the Register. Reflexive Thematic Analysis was used to identify themes across participants and the findings are currently being written up to form the first study of my PhD. I plan to present my final results, as well as outline the remaining studies of my thesis.

Altered neural and behavioral response to sexually implicit stimuli during a pictorial-modified Stroop task in pedophilic disorder

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Background: A risk factor for committing child sexual abuse in pedophilic disorder (PD) is impaired cognitive control. However, the underlying neurocognitive mechanisms remain unclear.

Methods: Case-control study including 51 self-identified and help-seeking males with PD and 55 matched healthy controls (HC). Functional MRI and a pictorial-modified Stroop task involving computer-generated sexually implicit images were used to measure response time (RT) and brain activation. Increases in RT during the pictorial-modified Stroop task are presumably due to image-induced interference in executive functions required for task performance.

Results: In PD, during the presentation of images of children compared with adults, we found increased RT ($p = 0.005$; 848 ± 92 ms; 826 ± 88 ms), and compared to HC, we found increased activation in the occipital, temporal (bilateral hippocampus), parietal, frontal, cingulate and left insular cortex as well as the caudate (bilaterally), thalamus (mediodorsal), and cerebellum.

Conclusions: Presentation of child images was associated with response interference in PD, and increased engagement of brain regions involved in the processing of sexual stimuli, visual perception, self-referential thought, and executive function. We conclude that processing of child images is associated with functional and behavioral alterations in PD.

Effective treatment for those who have engaged in sexually inappropriate behavior

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A recent evaluation of the Rockwood treatment program for adult males who have engaged in sexual offending found our participants to have a statistically significantly lower rate of reoffending than did two groups matched for risk and time-at-risk, namely a Treatment As Usual and Untreated group (Olver et al., 2020). This statistically significant reduction in reoffending was also found for violent offending. In a subsequent report (Marshall & Marshall, 2021), we evaluated the costs versus benefits of providing this treatment in the Canadian federal prison system and found, besides less victimization, significant savings to the public. These results and the treatment program approach, content, and delivery (Marshall et al., 2011) will be described and discussed.

Working with individuals who deny responsibility for offending sexually

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While most individuals convicted of a sexual crime make excuses for their behavior through omitting or underplaying certain aspects or its consequences, a small number of these individuals will steadfastly continue to deny responsibility. These individuals maintain that they are innocent and have been wrongly accused or convicted and are often released to the community not having participated in treatment. These individuals pose assessment, management, and treatment challenges. Clinicians often describe significant difficulties engaging and working with these individuals. Practitioners also appear to have polarized views about this group of offenders, most notably in terms of whether or not denial equates to an increased risk of recidivism, if deniers can be treated, or even if they should receive treatment at all.

This preconference workshop will present a review of the literature on what is known about deniers and present new data about the function of categorical denial. Then, the methods and effectiveness of a range of treatment approaches to overcoming denial will be described. Finally, the description and effectiveness of an approach where denial of having sexually offended is not challenged and instead focuses on empirically identified criminogenic issues will be presented. Workshop participants will be provided a rationale for this treatment approach as well as practical assessment, risk assessment, and treatment guidance. This will include use of case studies and examples.

Desistance, recovery, and justice capital: Putting it all together

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This paper will discuss a HMI Probation report authored by the speakers highlighting the importance of recovery capital and justice capital to desistance and community integration. Recovery capital is made up of social, physical, human, and cultural capital, recognising the importance of the context that an individual finds themselves in, and how responses need to be holistic and person-centred, paying attention to the individual, interpersonal, community, and societal levels. Justice capital highlights the specific role of justice organisations and practitioners in delivering recovery capital in an equitable and responsive way, with a focus on how best to work with all individuals, and how to prepare, support and develop staff. Crucially, access to the required capital for desistance can be improved or damaged by the operation of the criminal justice system and the way its key agencies deliver services. Within the inspectorate, we remain focused on promoting high-quality services that change people's lives for the better.

Survey of current practices in the assessment, treatment and management of people convicted of a sexual offence in Europe

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The current paper is based on research conducted with the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) looking at the different practices and policies in the assessment, treatment and integration of people convicted of a sexual offence across the countries involved in CEP. The research ran across late 2021 (October) and into mid 2022 (August) and was accessible via Qualtrics. During the time the questionnaire was open, 24 countries and/or regional members of CEP completed it (including, Albania, Belgium - Flemish Community, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Jersey, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Northern Ireland, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Scotland, Spain). The research highlighted a number of findings, including that risk assessment is inconsistent across, that treatment for people convicted of a sexual offence is common across Europe and operates in a similar fashion, that more work needs to be done on bespoke treatment programs for certain populations (i.e., BAME. Mental health, Neurodiversity, and learning difficulty), that there needs to be better, more consistent and evidenced-based staff training; that Social Policy linked to sexual offending is seen as high priority in Europe; and that there is a recognition that the prevention of sexual abuse is important, but this needs to be built on by policy makers and practitioners. The paper will end with a series of reflections and recommendations from the research.

Understanding and responding to sibling sexual abuse and its links to family dysfunction

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This paper presents part of the findings of the Home Office funded Sibling Sexual Abuse (SSA) project. The focus is upon adult victim/survivors and the impact that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's), trauma and their environment upon the SSA that they experienced. The research is based on 18 semi-structured interviews with victim/survivors of SSA (n=17 female, n=1 male), which were analysed through Thematic Analysis, resulting in five themes centred around the participants experiences of their family life being dysfunction and how this contributed to their experiences of SSA, including (1) Poor parental engagement and Communication (absent/disengaged parents); (2) broader abuse in the family/community (including Inappropriate role modelling and poor learnt behaviour); (3) poor parental boundaries and inconsistent parenting; (4) denial of abuse and downplaying child's voice and (5) normalising the dysfunction. It was found that having a working knowledge of the contexts into which SSA is situated is a key element when planning interventions as adverse childhood experiences and dysfunctional contexts should be accounted for and addressed within interventions that are planned. There should be a focus upon the whole family and not just an individual's psychology to get the best outcomes for victim/survivors, those carrying out the SSA and the wider family into which these behaviours are embedded.

Changes in sexual thoughts and behaviors during the COVID-19 pandemic

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In this paper we describe a qualitative study in which we examined perceived effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on help-seeking individuals who access child sexual abuse material (CSAM, legally referred to as child pornography). The study recruited 18 participants who were part of the internet based Prevent It Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) clinical trial, which aims to reduce CSAM use and child exploitation, and were willing to answer questions during a semi-structured interview about the perceived impact of the pandemic restrictions on their lives, including their sexual thoughts and behaviors. Key themes that were identified from the participants' answers included changes in day-to-day life, mental health, sexual thoughts, behaviors or urges, responses and coping strategies used to deal with sexual urges, changes on the forums, positive changes, and how they could best be assisted with coping in this situation. Our qualitative analysis also suggested that the pandemic affected urges to use CSAM, therefore potentially increasing the risk of online sexual offending. These results support that there is a need to investigate this potential negative side effect of quarantines or lockdowns before future pandemics.

Supporting context figures of minor attracted persons and persons who committed sex offences in specialised ambulatory treatment

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Using project funds from the Welfare department, Public Health and Family, of Flanders (BE) the University Forensic Centre (UFC), reference centre and specialised ambulatory treatment centre, began to develop and implement a psycho-educational and therapeutic offer in 2022 for context figures of minor attracted persons (MAP) and persons who have committed a sex offence (PCSO). This project involves a two-track approach. On one hand, for those context figures who mainly need support by clear and correct information, a number of psycho-educational and supportive sessions are offered. Without going into the specific content of the treatment the MAP or the PCSO undergoes at the UFC, context figures are given general information about sexual attraction to minors or committing sex offenses.

Secondly, the UFC offers context figures the possibility to be more involved with the therapeutic process of their relative. During these therapeutic sessions the focus lies mainly on strengthening the relationship and connection between the MAP and or PCSO and his context figure. Furthermore, during the sessions attention is given towards restoring trust in the relationship between the client and his context figure, and reactions of incomprehension and rejection that the loved one experiences from his/her environment. This presentation will elaborate the approach for context figures in our ambulatory treatment centre, by discussing two cases in depth.

Non-photographic images of child sexual abuse: The risks and public policy responses

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Non-Photographic Abuse Imagery is non-photographic material, such as cartoons or drawings, that depicts the sexual abuse of child or child-like characters. It is considered that this type of material would in many cases likely align with illegal images of children; legislative and law enforcement responses, however, vary across countries, and little is known about its effects with regards to the ever-increasing scale of online child sexual abuse. This paper presents a multi-method investigation into the nature and possible effects of Non-Photographic Abuse Imagery featuring child or child-like characters (NPAI). The study included a review of existing literature on the topic, input from experts in relevant fields, and a consideration of the prevalence of this material online. The paper will outline the study and findings and reflect on the four key recommendations: (1) The need to develop a clear and universal definition of NPAI; (2) Collaboration between relevant agencies internationally to increase online regulation of harmful content; (3) Support for young people in the development of healthy relationships and sex education; and (4) Greater focus on NPAI within research.

Relooking at statutory rape laws in Malaysia applied on young offenders: Perspectives of the Malaysian police officers

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Statutory rape laws exist to prevent the manipulation of male perpetrators to have sexual intercourse with an underage female. Currently, the laws do not discriminate between adult and adolescent perpetrators. This is a problem because adolescents differ from adults developmentally and psychologically which brings forward the question if a black-and-white application of statutory rape laws among male adolescents is justified and if reform is needed. To explore the scope of study, perspectives from police officers are important to be considered as they are among the first responders in cases of sexual relations involving underage females. This study employed in-depth interviews with thirteen Malaysian police officers regarding their experience in handling these cases, with special focus given on their perspectives regarding the differences between adult and young perpetrators. In the interviews, some issues are raised, such as the unique characteristics of cases involving adults and ones involving young perpetrators, and the police officers' sense of duty as police officers. This study provides the first account of perspectives among Malaysian police officers on statutory rape cases involving young offenders which has implications towards understanding the laws in the country.

Stop It Now! Scotland - Database analysis and development of data quality standards

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Stop It Now! Scotland is part of the Lucy Faithfull Foundation child protection charity. As part of their sexual abuse prevention work, it provides support services to individuals with problematic sexual thoughts or behaviours and those who may be at risk of sexual offending, including those who are under investigation for internet sexual offences. Over the years, STOP IT NOW! Scotland has collected data on over 750 individuals arrested for internet-based offences, including possession of indecent images of children, indecent communication with minors and indecent online communication with adults. The database has information on over 40 variables which have been analysed to help shape the understanding of this group of offenders, factors which may have contributed to their offending, individual factors (such as employment, mental health, experiences of trauma, neurological differences etc), and consequences of their offending. The aim of this study was two-pronged: (1) to understand how clientele and the service is developing and identify future trends, and (2) to identify gaps or (statistically) redundant variables. These findings were summarised into practice-based guidance for database recording and an initial framework for data quality standards that can be shared with other services.

Talking for Change: The evaluation of Canada's first child sexual abuse perpetration prevention psychotherapy intervention

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Background: Prevention of child sexual abuse requires a multi-systems approach. A secondary prevention program, Talking for Change (TFC), was developed to target individuals at-risk of perpetrating child sexual abuse. A feasibility evaluation was conducted of the TFC psychotherapy intervention and related assessment procedures.

Method: Comprehensive pre- and post-treatment assessments evaluating static and dynamic risk to (re)offend, protective factors, and psychosexual factors were conducted for clients enrolled in the TFC intervention ($N = 19$). Clients who participated in the intervention provided weekly quantitative ratings and qualitative feedback related to the content and process of each session. They were also administered a post-treatment satisfaction interview.

Results: Significant reductions in overall dynamic risk ratings were found over the course of the intervention. Self-reported risk factors were also reduced, albeit non-significantly. Client satisfaction and acceptability ratings of the sessions were high. Client qualitative reports highlighted strengths of the approach and areas to strengthen in future iterations of the group.

Conclusions: Data supports the ability of the clinical rating measures to detect change, the appropriateness of existing rating measures of dynamic risk for this novel population, and the potential for this intervention to reduce risk. Client acceptability and satisfaction were generally high.

Project Paraphile: Evaluation of the effects of a therapeutic intervention

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The Project Paraphile was the first project of its kind in the Czech Republic, aiming a set of early interventions on the paraphilic population. Since its inception in 2019, it introduced an online chat service, a helpline, and a long-term therapeutic intervention. Within the project, a robust evaluation was conducted to discern, inter alia, the effects of the therapeutic program on the risk of sexual offending. To that end, the 60+ participants of the project were assessed for their risk factors at three time points (start, 6 months, end). A control group was recruited through online channels and through experts in the field of offender treatment, as both offenders and non-offenders were included also in the intervention group. Aside from risk factors, the evaluation looked at quality of life and user satisfaction of the recruits. In the presentation, we will introduce the first results of the impact evaluation, along with the lessons learned along the way that can be used by future researchers and practitioners in the area of early prevention of sexual violence.

A critical evaluation of online child sexual exploitation theories: Current gaps and future directions for psychological research and clinical practice

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Micro-factor theories that explain the process by which offending behaviour is caused and maintained have been influential in guiding the formulation and treatment of that behaviour. Despite the grave implications of online child sexual exploitation (OCSE) and its evolving nature, theoretical explanations have not developed at a level that can appropriately guide prevention and treatment. This presentation provides an investigation into the adequacy of current theoretical explanations (Level I, Level II, Level III; Ward & Hudson, 1998) of OCSE in informing clinical practice. First, a synthesis of existing theories for OCSE is provided, categorizing them by their theoretical construction. Each is appraised according to predetermined criteria to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses against key epistemic values. Findings highlight that the transposition of theory, usually through the application of contact sexual offending theories or general theories of crime, introduces many challenges. The lack of consideration of crucial aetiological factors specific to OCSE is affecting the efficacy of prevention and treatment. The need for the development of micro-factor theories (Level III theories) to inform effectual clinical practice is proposed, specifically within the domain of rehabilitation and intervention. Future research should therefore focus on developing OCSE-specific theories that consider critical, unique aetiological variables.

On the role of bias in risk assessment

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Valid risk assessment is of high importance to adequately address the (potentially) conflicting goals of personal rights and the protection of society. The importance of this goal is reflected in the extensive research on the psychometric quality of risk assessment tools. In contrast, there is little empirical research on (1) the extent to which the use of risk assessment tools may be influenced by different biases and (2) what strategies are effective in reducing the influence of such biases. The presentation introduces a generic bias recipe (Oeberst & Imhoff, 2023) and applies it to the context of risk assessment. Following this, a classification of existing and innovatively developed strategies for reducing bias in risk assessment will be presented. This classification distinguishes between risk assessment-specific and bias process-specific aspects. Based on empirical findings, the effectiveness of the presented strategies is evaluated and critically discussed.

The role and relevance of protective factors in dynamic sexual violence risk assessment and management

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Protective factors refer to salutary agents that mitigate risk for antisocial behavior and increase the potential for prosocial functioning and wellbeing. The last 10 years has witnessed a major rise in protective factors and their role and relevance in the assessment, treatment, and management of justice involved populations, including persons with a history of sexual offending. The use of formalized operationalizations of protective factors such as the Structured Assessment of Protective Factors (SAPROF; de Vogel et al., 2009), and its variants, the Sexual Offence (SAPROF-SO) and Youth Versions (SAPROF-YV), have furthered research and clinical application, as well as bolstered the credibility of the protective factors construct. This plenary will discuss recent lines of applied research featuring SAPROF-measured protective factors with sexual offending populations. Lines of research are presented to show that: 1) protective factors predict decreased recidivism, 2) predict increased positive outcomes, 3) can be increased for the better with treatment or other purposive change agents (including sexual offense specific services), 4) that such changes are often associated with decreased risk and recidivism, and 5) protective factors are often incrementally predictive of such outcomes beyond formalized measures of risk. Debate remains as to what extent changes in protection are independent of decreases in risk as well as optimal methods for integrating risk and protection factor information in case planning. I conclude with some suggested guidelines and applications of recent findings for clinical practice along with recommendations for further research.

Therapeutic approaches with high psychopathy sexual offending populations: Evidence, issues, and practice implications

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Despite being a notoriously challenging population to treat, a growing body of research has provided increasing support that individuals with psychopathic traits can make risk-relevant changes from evidence informed programs. This half day workshop provides a review and discussion of treatment issues and approaches with psychopathic sexual offenders to promote client retention in treatment and minimize attrition. Practical research findings to illustrate clinical applications will be presented and information and guidelines for working clinically with this challenging population will be provided. Participants will also have an opportunity to discuss their own clinical cases.

Collaboration between police and psychiatry: An innovative approach to reduce risk for new child sexual exploitation material offences

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The workshop will present the Norwegian SOBI/Proteus project. This project consists of a collaborative effort between police, psychiatry and research with the aim of both reducing risk of new CSEM-offences and to gain more knowledge about consumers of child sexual exploitation material offenders. The workshop will present how a task force at the Trøndelag police plan and execute “knock and talk” procedures, and how skilled psychologists will start treatment within the next hour. The workshop will further present the background for the joint collaboration of research and prevention of sexual offences against children on the internet (SOBI) and preliminary result from the research from the treatment of the CSEM-offenders being referred from the police.

‘All virtual roads lead to Rome Trondheim’: Examining online offending paths leading to the sexual exploitation of adolescents

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While much is known about men who use the internet to download child sexual exploitation material, little is known about those who use it to engage in online sexual communications with adolescents over social media. Preliminary findings suggest some distinctions between offenders whose communications are driven to obtain offline meetings with minors, and those whose communications are strictly virtual and aim to fulfill sexual fantasies (Briggs et al., 2011). There is also evidence supporting a certain specificity in terms of psychological meaningful risk factors of solicitation offenders when compared to other sexual offenders against children (Seto et al., 2012). Studies have however generally not united knowledge about psychological risk factors to offenders' offending behaviors. To fill this gap, the goal of this study was to examine the heterogeneity within offending paths among men who engaged in online sexual exploitation of adolescents. A latent class analysis was conducted using online behaviors identifying in 96 police cases of men convicted of child luring in Canada. Analyses helped identify four paths of victimization. These paths were also compared based on bivariate analyses in terms of offenders' psychological risk factors. Results will be discussed for their implications for research, clinical practice and police intervention.

An examination of opportunities for sexual crimes against adult victims by female sexual offenders

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Whilst most of the research has focused on males as typical perpetrators of sexual crimes, recent empirical research has established that females also commit these crimes. Even so, it remains that the criminological field knows little about female-perpetrated sexual crimes against adult victims. These crimes appear counterintuitive on a number of dimensions, including how an individual from the “weaker” sex can gain physical control of another adult. In the current study, we examine the opportunities for females to perpetrate contact sexual crimes against adults by analyzing NIBRS data. We look specifically at the nexus of the person, time and place decisions made by female perpetrators in the context of their crimes against adult victims, and decisions pertaining to the crime commission methods. The results are discussed in light of criminological opportunity approaches (rational choice, and routine activities) to present a gendered explanation of existing contextual opportunities for the perpetration of sexual crime against adult victims by female offenders.

How do we thrive in this work and become more effective?

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While our field has rightly discussed the importance of self-care in our work, very little focus has been placed on what research shows about becoming more effective as a practitioner. This presentation will illustrate what research has found about what does and doesn't contribute to professional development and will offer observations on current trends in def-care and compassion.

Practical application and implementation of the Good Lives Model (GLM)

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The GLM is a strength-based rehabilitation model originally developed for treating individuals who have sexually abused. It is adapted for use with both adults and adolescents, male and female. Properly implemented, it adheres to the principles of risk, need, and responsivity, and can be delivered in accordance with principles of motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral treatment. This training focuses on key theoretical underpinnings, principles, and applications of the model. It will focus on newly developed ideas for monitoring fidelity to the GLM, as well as tips for implementation efforts.

The application of the Dual Control Model (DCM) on individuals convicted of sexual offenses and the relevance of the concepts of sexual excitation and sexual Inhibition

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One of the most important theoretical developments in the last decades in the field of sex research was the introduction of the Dual Control Model (DCM) by John Bancroft and Erick Janssen. The DCM postulates that the degree of sexual arousal depends on the individual responsiveness of two distinct neurophysiological systems: sexual excitation and sexual inhibition. In the present study, we present results about the first empirical study, which applies the DCM in the research about the etiological roots of sexual offending behavior. This approach seems to be promising for at least the following reasons: On the one hand, it could allow the connection between the findings of DCM-related research with non-forensic samples. On the other hand, the theoretical underpinnings of the DCM could provide a basis for the conjunction of the manifold empirical neuropsychological findings in samples consisting of individuals convicted of sexual offenses and a theory-based explanation of these diverse results. For the present study, the German version of the Sexual Inhibition/Sexual Excitation Scales-Short Form (SIS/SES-SF) was used in a total sample of N = 359 individuals convicted and incarcerated because of the commission of at least one sexually motivated offense. All participants were comprehensively assessed at the Federal Evaluation Centre for Violent and Sexual Offenders (FECVSO) in Vienna, Austria, between 2018 and 2022. The findings underline particularly the relevance of sexual excitation by showing significant and substantial relationships with a number of constructs relevant for the explanation of sexual crimes (e.g., hypersexuality, cognitive distortions, sexual anxiety, and sexual deviance).

Introducing Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) as part of Norwegian probation

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Introduction: As seen in many countries, people convicted of sexual offences constitute a growing proportion of the inmate population in Norway. Thus, the Norwegian Correctional Service is increasing rehabilitative efforts aimed at this target group in particular, both in and outside of prison. The Probation Service is the key element in reentry work, with a long tradition of providing support to released prisoners.

Objective: The presentation describes the practical process of introducing and establishing the first CoSA in Norway at the Oslo Probation Office.

Results: The Probation Service seems well suited to host an intervention like CoSA, due to its established tradition of balancing risk and need, as well as an overall and holistic perspective that caters to individual needs. Being staffed with trained social workers who are experienced in cooperating closely with prisons, prisoners, and directly with volunteers provide all parties with an essential sense of security.

Discussion: CoSA is organized differently across countries, and from our experience, fits very well within the overall landscape of the Norwegian Correctional Service. The combination of voluntary and professional work upon which CoSA is built fits particularly well within the Probation Office.

Courtroom use of the VRAG-R in civil commitment of sexually dangerous persons

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The Violence Risk Appraisal Guide - Revised (VRAG-R) is used in courtrooms throughout the United States to provide information to the court regarding the individual's risk of recidivism. In Washington State, the VRAG-R is utilized in many court cases aimed at civilly committing sexually dangerous persons who have completed their prison sentence but who may remain too dangerous to release. These individuals are known in WA state as "sexually violent predators", which requires a finding that the person is "more likely than not" to commit predatory acts of sexual violence if not confined in a secure facility. In this training, you will see how a defense attorney and state prosecutor use the VRAG-R in such cases through testimonial examples from Dr. Brian Judd, a forensic evaluator and one of the members of the VRAG-R Development Committee. In this training, you will learn how the limitations of the VRAG-R can be translated into simple language for both judges and jurors. You will see how to deal with arguments of over- and under-estimation of risk for violent recidivism utilizing the VRAG-R, including how to defend the use of the VRAG-R when it detects both violent sex offenses AND non-sexual violence. And we hope to answer your questions of how to apply the VRAG-R to narrow forensic questions where legal definitions of sexual violence may differ from those used in the instrument. You should leave our presentation with an idea of how the VRAG-R may be used in testimony and assess the use of the VRAG-R for psychological evaluations in the context of forensic applications.

Overview of the Griffith Youth Forensic Service

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Since 2001, GYFS has provided specialised assessment to almost 1000 individuals and subsequently treated approximately 600 young men across the state of Queensland (Australia). For more than 20 years, GYFS has provided an individualised and place-based referral, assessment, and treatment service for mostly male (98%) adolescents (aged between 10 and 17) who have been adjudicated by the court for the most serious sexual offences. Official police and corrections records continue to indicate a very low recidivism rate for sexual and nonsexual offending. With an office location in the state's capital of Brisbane, clinicians travel all over Queensland (a state more than 3 times the size of Texas) to provide individualised treatment to adolescents, their families, and communities. Since 2006 we have prioritised high risk, high need, rural and remote clients. Despite GYFS participants having the most serious criminal records, program evaluations consistently indicate that even in this cohort, nine out ten clients do not reoffend with sexual offences. Consistent with the adult criminal justice system, First Nations people are overrepresented in our clientele, with Anglo-Australians comprising about 75% of our sample. Like other jurisdictions, we are observing an exponential increase in offending within an online environment, particularly around the use, production, and distribution of child sexual exploitation material.

Explaining the unexplainable: Sexual recidivism in a sample of Norwegian men

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Introduction: One in four men in Norwegian prisons serve a custodial sentence for a sexual offense. Although sexual recidivism is statistically rare, its consequences are profound, so it is important to understand the underlying causes and mechanisms of re-offending. The perspectives of those with first-hand experience of recidivism are not only highly relevant but are yet to be featured in any systematic and empirical study.

Objective: This presentation examines the phenomenon of recidivism as it was experienced by a sample of 22 Norwegian men interviewed in prison after a reconviction. It considers their experiences during their most recent period of release and uncovers what they believe went wrong.

Results: Some men expressed a need for closer follow-up and/or therapeutic intervention upon release and described their reoffending as a cry for help. Others used the general hopelessness of their lives and situations upon release to explain their reoffending.

Discussion: The narratives of recidivism were at times fragmented, ambiguous, and complex, and revealed how difficult it can be to present a coherent and morally appropriate explanation for their apparent “failure” (recidivism). Their release experiences and the role that stigma play in their lives and narratives are discussed in comparison with the US sample.

The impact of testosterone-lowering medication on recidivism in individuals convicted of sexual offenses

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Treatment of individuals who have committed sexual offences with Testosterone-Lowering Medication (TLM) is a comparatively intrusive kind of intervention. For this reason, the question of efficacy is of great importance.

In the present quasi-experimental study, recidivism rates of TLM-treated high-risk individuals (+TLM; $n = 54$) were compared with high-risk individuals treated with psychotherapy only in the same forensic outpatient clinic (-TLM; $n = 79$). Group differences suggested a higher initial risk of +TLM (e.g., higher Static-99R scores, more previous convictions). Despite the increased risk, after an average time at risk of six years, +TLM recidivated significantly less often and later than -TLM (27.8% vs. 51.9%). Such an effect was also found for violent (1.9% vs. 15.2%), but not for sexual (5.6% vs. 10.1%) and serious recidivism (5.6% vs. 10.1%). In the course of treatment, TLM proved to be a significant variable for a positive process, whereas a high Static-99R score indicated a rather negative course. In total, $n = 19$ individuals had stopped TLM, of these 31.6% recidivated. Overall, the results support the efficacy of TLM, particularly in the group of high-risk offenders.

Paraphilic disorders and compulsive sexual behavior disorder: Presentation of ongoing treatment studies

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Background: Deviant sexual preferences and sexual preoccupation are major risk factors for sexual crime recidivism. Nonetheless, there is a paucity of evidence for treatment efficacy in help-seeking individuals.

Methods: The ANOVA clinic at Karolinska University hospital in Sweden is conducting three studies with the aim to investigate clinical characteristics in help-seeking individuals with Compulsive Sexual Behavior Disorder (CSBD) and/or paraphilic disorders, as well as evaluate treatment:

- (1) Individuals with Compulsive sexual behavior disorder are randomized between naltrexone and fluoxetine (n=80).
- (2) Men with sexual interest in children are randomized between fluoxetine, cognitive behavioral therapy and a psychopedagogical program (n=111).
- (3) Evaluate treatment as usual in paraphilic disorders (n=160) and compare clinical characteristics to a control group.

Discussion: We would like to increase awareness of these studies, discuss challenges and experiences of performing studies in these populations, as well as enable collaboration with researchers/clinicians visiting the conference.

@myTabu: Characteristics of the clinical trial and the acceptance of web-based intervention among individuals who have committed sexual offenses against children

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The aim of @myTabu is to develop a web-based intervention designed to reduce the risk of reoffending for individuals who sexually abused children and individuals who consumed child sexual exploitation material. Currently, @myTabu is being evaluated in a randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trial in cooperation with the community supervisions in Germany (Fromberger et al., 2021). This talk presents and discusses the methodology of the clinical trial as well as preliminary baseline data regarding acceptance of the web-based intervention and predictors for acceptance ($N = 113$). The predictors for acceptance are based on the Unified theory of acceptance and use of technology (Venkatesh et al., 2003) and comprise three core factors of acceptance (performance expectancy, effort expectancy, and social influence) as well as three additionally selected factors (internet anxiety, attitude towards web-based interventions, and age). Further, a moderating effect of age on the predictors will be discussed. The results indicate a high acceptance in the investigated sample. A multiple linear regression showed that social influence and attitude towards web-based interventions are important for the prediction of acceptance.

Supporting context figures of minor attracted persons and persons who committed sex offences at Stop it Now! Flanders (BE)

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Stop it Now! aims to prevent child sexual abuse by offering free, anonymous support to anyone who is concerned about their own sexual feelings or behavior towards minors, and by offering support to adult context figures who are concerned about the feelings or behavior of others. Stop it Now! Flanders aims to fill in the needs of context figures by offering approachable support. Context figures often experience reluctance to contact the helpline or consult with professionals, because of stigma and feelings of shame. Therefore, Stop it Now! created a website specifically for context figures to aid in their search for answers and support. Through this website they can find information, specific tools (i.e., “Start the conversation” manual, and “It is possible to stop” self-help tool), access to the online forum, and can register for in-person support groups. With the online forum and the support groups Stop it Now! wants to facilitate contact between relatives so they can share their thoughts, questions, feelings, and find comfort, support, and acknowledgement with each other. By offering more insights and support, and by strengthening this often stigmatized group, Stop it Now! indirectly contributes to the prevention of child sexual abuse. This presentation will elaborate more on the specific tools, the online forum and the support groups which Stop it Now offers to context figures.

The prevalence of mental disorders and the opportunities and limitations of risk assessment for individuals convicted of offenses related to child sexual exploitation material (CSEM)

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Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CSEM) is a form of sexual violence against children that has increased tremendously in recent years. Although CSEM has always been produced and circulated, it has only spread globally with the increasing availability of the internet. Current research distinguishes between offenders with and without additional sexual contact offenses (dual CSEM offenders vs. exclusive CSEM offenders). While a strong sexual interest in children can be considered as a common criminogenic need and risk factor, both groups differ in other (particularly nonsexual) risk factors such as self-regulatory skills or personality traits related to antisociality and psychopathy. These differences manifest themselves in different risk profiles and thus in different recidivism risk estimates. In this presentation, clinical findings from criminological, psychological and psychiatric expert witness evaluations of an Austrian sample of 66 incarcerated CSEM offenders were presented, in order to determine the prevalence of mental disorders as well as symptoms for hypersexual disorder. The results were compared with other subgroups of individuals convicted of sexual offenses. Finally, the opportunities and limitations of risk assessment for this particular group of individuals convicted of sexual offenses are presented using the German version of the Child Pornography Offender Risk Tool (CPORT).

‘Dual identity’ and the forgotten trauma in the histories of people who have sexually offended

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As part of a recent project exploring trauma informed practice (TIP) as a mechanism of support in recovery for those who have been sexually abused, the concept of ‘dual identity’ emerged. For those convicted of a sexual offence but who had also experienced trauma themselves, this ‘dual identity’ had an adverse impact on recovery. Limited opportunities for trauma informed interventions are available for the sex offenders who are victims, particularly of sexual offences, compared to non-offending victims. 20 professionals were interviewed using purposeful and then snowball sampling. This included service providers from the public, private and charity sector as well as academics from the field. Thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2006) was applied to the data following verbatim transcription and the following issues were identified: (1) The criminal justice sector is primarily focussed on the protection of the public and risk management, (2) No clear definition, & (3) The process of punishment can be traumatic in itself. This paper explores the impact of these issues on the availability of TIP to those sex offenders with historic trauma through the lens of the professionals tasked to deliver it. The analysis demonstrates that the victim side of the ‘dual identity’ experienced by sex offenders, is often forgotten in their journey of rehabilitation and desistance.

The impact of (re)location within multiple perpetrator sexual offenses (MPSOs)

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Among the public, it is widely believed that being taken to a second location puts a victim at greater risk of further harm. Within the context of multiple perpetrator sexual offenses (MPSOs), a notable proportion involve the victim being approached outside and taken to a private dwelling, where sexual violence takes place. To our knowledge, no studies have explored the differences between MPSOs that do involve a second location and MPSOs that do not. This study explores this question using a sample of 110 Canadian MPSO cases involving 332 alleged perpetrators. In this investigation, we explore whether victims who were moved across locations were more or less likely to be injured, killed, given substances, or subjected to non-sexual violence. We also investigate whether relocated victims were of a particular age and relationship to the perpetrators. With respect to the perpetrating groups, we explore whether groups that utilized multiple locations were of a particular gender, age, and relationship to one another and whether they consumed substances, committed other crimes, and were acting under the direction of a leader. This presentation will discuss the results of this study and highlight potential implications for clinical and investigative work.

A cross-validation of the German version of the Revised Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interests (SSPI-2)

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Pedophilic interests are considered as one of the strongest predictors of sexual recidivism among persons convicted of sexual offenses against children. The Revised Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interests (SSPI-2) is a comparatively easy-to-score actuarial instrument to assess pedophilic interests. The present study aimed to examine the convergent, predictive, and incremental validity of the SSPI-2 in a sample of $N = 438$ males released from the Austrian prison system who had been convicted and incarcerated because of sexual offenses against children. As expected, the SSPI-2 correlated moderately with a diagnosis of pedophilia and exclusive pedophilia according to DSM-IV-TR and with the risk assessment instruments Static-99 and SVR-20 version 2. The examination of the predictive validity using ROC analyses, logistic and Cox regressions revealed moderate predictive accuracy of the SSPI-2 regarding sexually motivated recidivism and sexual contact and noncontact recidivism, which was comparable to the Static-99, SVR-20 v2 and to a diagnosis of exclusive pedophilia. Sequential Cox regressions show that the SSPI-2 incrementally predicts sexual recidivism and sexual noncontact recidivism beyond the SVR-20 v2 and the diagnosis of exclusive pedophilia, but not sexual contact recidivism. The SSPI-2 does not have incremental predictive validity beyond the Static-99. Finally, normative data were constructed for the observed and calculated proportions of pedophilia and exclusive pedophilia diagnoses and for the 5-year sexual recidivism rates for SSPI-2 total score. Results suggest that the SSPI-2 validly captures pedophilic interest and thus can help to predict risk of sexual recidivism among child sexual abusers.

Harmful sexual behaviour among children and adolescents: Prevention strategies and proposals for interventions

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Problematic and harmful sexual behaviour among children and adolescent is not rare. It is estimated that among 20-30 % of sexual assault is committed by a person under 18 years (Barbaree & Marshall, 2008), and about 50% of adult sexual offenders report deviant sexual interests in adolescence (Finkelhor, Omrod and Chaffin, 2009).

Why children and adolescents show problematic and harmful sexual behaviour will, however, vary. Studies often look into individual characteristics e.g. developmental problems, traumatization and learning disabilities (Hackett, 2014; Sandvik, Nasset, Berg and Søndena, 2017; JanusCentret, 2021). Cultural and more community based approaches are more scarce.

This presentation will shed light to understand the link between causes of problematic and harmful sexual behaviour and different prevention strategies, in order to promote healthy sexual behaviour, or «sexual decency», in children and adolescents. The presentation will include an overview of different tools developed in the recent years to enhance healthy sexual behaviour. More targeted interventions where children and adolescents have shown problematic or harmful sexual behaviour, will also be offered.

Navigating a dark place: What do incels make of their experience and how can we help them?

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Background: Involuntary celibates (incels) are a group of men who experience frustration over their lack of sexual engagement. Concerningly, incel forums have been identified as rife with aggressive, anti-feminist content with calls to engage in sexual violence. Further, these forums propagate a „Blackpill“ ideology that paints a nihilistic picture of society as being based on an impenetrable looks-based hierarchy. However, a large proportion of incels do not subscribe to these beliefs; instead, incels use their label and participate in forums to provide a sense of understanding and belonging. What has yet to be explored is how the incel label and engagement with this community has shaped incels' perspectives of themselves and others and whether there is any risk of radicalization.

Methods: The present study conducted 12 semi-structured interviews (guide available here: https://osf.io/rdnwp/?view_only=ffb715b031734e08a3bc3798a240c9d6) with self-identified incels.

Results: A thematic analysis identified several themes relating to sexual performance concerns, issues with masculinity, inceldom as a “disease,” experiences of isolation, knowledge-seeking, and a desire to find meaning in other life domains.

Conclusions: Incels are a heterogeneous group who face a complex array of inter- and intra-personal issues. Utilization of a Good Lives Model approach may be particularly advantageous with this group.

Evaluation and implementation of a web- based training program to strengthen efforts to prevent sexual assault and violence

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Background: Sexual violence is a widespread societal problem causing severe harm and disabilities. Preventive interventions and treatment in order to decrease the risk for sexual assault seem like a meaningful strategy. The aim of this study is to develop and launch a web- based training program designed for and targeted to the primary health care to facilitate identification of clinical conditions that constitute a risk for committing sexual abuse, such as compulsive sexual behavior disorder (CSBD) and paraphilic disorders. Furthermore, the purpose is to inform about available treatments and referrals for specialist care.

Methods: Experts in sexual medicine developed a web-based training program specially designed for professions in primary health care. Two independent reviewers scrutinized the manuscript. To assess feasibility, a study was conducted with a smaller but representative group of primary health care providers.

Results: A four-hour, web-based interactive educational program which included CSBD and paraphilic disorders, improving skills for sexual history taking and information of available treatments and possible referrals was developed. It was evaluated by participants and subject to scientific scrutiny.

Conclusion: The training program can presumably aid health care personnel to identify early risk factors for sexual violence.

A theory of sexual identity development for minor attracted males

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Whilst sexual identity development is well documented for sexual/romantic attractions to adults, little is known about this developmental trajectory for Minor Attracted Persons (MAPs). This research presents the empirical foundation for a Theory of Sexual Identity Development in Minor Attracted Males. Using Grounded Theory Methodology, 20 men (18-70years), from various countries, some with offence histories against children and some who had not offended, were interviewed to understand how they experienced their sexual identity from adolescence into adulthood. The main findings outline the core concern of minor-attracted males to be one of Acceptance: of themselves; of the attraction; by non-MAP others; by other MAPs. The research also identifies the various (basic social psychological) processes and strategies minor attracted males use to gain a sense of acceptance of themselves and the attraction. Other major theoretical categories include a conceptualisation of 'managing the attraction', 'internalising and rejecting the monster narrative' and the 'changing nature of the attraction over the life-course'. The research offers implications for theory and practice, both in terms of psychological well-being as well as offence prevention, such as how we can better support young people who find themselves with a minor-attraction and how we can support people later in life.

Assessing and managing offense analogue and offense replacement behaviors (OABs and ORBs) in sexual offense treatment contexts

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Dynamic security involves constructively utilizing staff interactions with correctional clientele – including persons with a history of sexual offenses – to contribute to a safe and rehabilitative environment. Offense linked proxy behaviors, known as offense analogue behaviors (OABs), represent criminogenic needs expressed in controlled institutional and community settings and can jeopardize safety, security, and/or release success. By contrast, offense replacement behaviors (ORBs) represent prosocial alternative behaviors that can supplant OABs, contribute to safe and effective corrections environments, and promote successful reintegration. This plenary session provides an overview of the OAB and ORB concepts in the context of sexual offense risk assessment and treatment – their assessment, monitoring, intervention and management through both formal and informal means. In addition to correctional programming, interpersonal interactions, per core correctional practices, are crucial to reducing the presence of OABs and increasing ORBs, which also enhances dynamic security. I conclude with recommendations for assessing and managing sexual offense OABs and ORBs through routine day-to-day operations.

Risk assessment approaches for youth who have sexually offended: The Violence Risk Scale-Youth Sexual Offense version (VRS-YSO)

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This workshop provides an overview of assessment approaches, recent findings, and issues in sexual offense risk assessment with male juvenile populations. The Violence Risk Scale-Youth Sexual Offense version (VRS-YSO; Olver, Rojas, Lewis, Gordon, & Wong, 2017), a dynamic risk assessment and treatment planning tool for youth who have sexually offended, will be reviewed in detail as an illustrative approach. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss practice cases employing the VRS-YSO and to discuss their own cases. Implications for sexual offense risk management and support for youth and families to prevent future sexual offending and promote healthy functioning and wellbeing is discussed.

Construct validity of SSPI and SSPI-2: Relations with clinical symptoms and sexual development

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Aim & Background: SSPI (Seto & Lalumière, 2001) and SSPI-2 (Seto et al., 2017) are worldwide most widely used screening instrument of sexual interest towards children. The aim of the study was to examine which psychological variables and variables related to sexual development are associated with the construct measured by SSPI. Psychological variables included in the study were based on the clinical symptoms level described in the Integrated Theory of Sexual Offending (ITSO; Ward & Beech 2006; 2008; 2016).

Method: Three samples of sexual offenders against children were examined ($n_1 = 248$, $n_2 = 69$, $n_3 = 74$). Each sample completed various sets of psychometric instruments measuring variables related to emotional problems, social difficulties and cognitive distortions. Sexual development variables were examined by interview, SSPI and SSPI-2 were scored based on the penitentiary files.

Results: SSPI and SSPI-2 scores in general were not related with indicators of other clinical symptoms but were related with factor related to sexual development, e.g. frequency of masturbation.

Conclusion: The results are in line with ITSO assumption that clinical symptoms are independent. Relations between SSPI and SSPI-2 scores and variables related to sexual development contributes to the instruments' validity.

Community attitudes towards institutional child sex offenders

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Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a globally prevalent, and vilified, offense. A broad variety of are offenses encompassed within the CSA label but one area appears underexplored within the research community despite gaining considerable attention in the media. The sexual abuse of children perpetrated by persons who gain access to the child through their roles within child serving institutions, referred to here as institutional child sexual abuse. Such offenses are believed to make up a small proportion of CSA acts but media sensationalism can keep the public focused on these types of offences which increases negative attention towards those who commit them. As a step towards closing this apparent research gap, we explore the stigmatization of individuals labelled as institutional child sexual offenders by surveying community members on their desired social distance from, and attitudes towards, institutional child sex offenders. We recruited 347 community-based participants and found that community members have highly negative attitudes towards, and desire increased social distance from, institutional child sex offenders. Such attitudes may have negative implications on the community reintegration of institutional child sex offenders and thus potentially increase the risk of recidivism. This work discusses these findings and the recommendations derived from the study.

The adverse childhood experiences of GYFS Clients

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Extant literature compellingly demonstrates the prevalence and importance of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in the developmental backgrounds of youth that perpetrate sexual harm, but further exploration of experiences of childhood maltreatment and family dysfunction is necessary to gain a greater understanding of the impacts of developmental trauma on future behaviours. Further, while previous research has emphasised the heterogeneity of youth populations who engage in harmful sexual behaviour, differential typologies based on ACEs are yet to be developed. This study aims to increase understanding of the impact of ACEs on youth offending outcomes by examining the nature and extent of ACEs in the early lives of 377 young males receiving services from GYFS following adjudication for sexual harm. It explores prevalence and cooccurrence of ACEs in this cohort and draws comparisons to youths convicted for non-sexual offences, finding that youths with harmful sexual behaviours more often experience childhood adversities, and also experience greater cumulative numbers of ACEs in their lifetimes. Examination of ACE cooccurrence suggests different pathways to perpetration of sexual harm (against adults, peers, and children), which are related to differences in offending behaviours. Implications for policy and practice are discussed and future research directions are presented.

Emotions recognition competence of male forensic inpatients who committed a sexual offence (FICSOs)

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Emotion Recognition (ER) is a central competency in social interactions. Accurate ER enables the inference of affective and mental states, which allows adaptation to the environment. Previous research on ER yielded contrasting results: some suggested a deficit of ER from Individuals who Committed a Sexual Offense (ICSOs), while others found a preserved competency. Nevertheless, none concerned forensic inpatients. The sample includes 110 male participants, divided into three groups: FISCOs ($n = 36$; $M = 48.81$, $SD = 14.03$; $M = 14.29$, $SD = 8.83$), FICNSOs ($n = 24$; $M = 41.47$, $SD = 10.89$; $M = 5.71$, $SD = 3.80$) and Participants From the Community (PFC, $n = 50$; $M = 34.37$, $SD = 14.18$). Four computerized tasks were employed: NimStim (faces), GEMEP (prosodic), homemade scenario (semantic), and BESST (body postures). One Way ANOVA analyses were run. All emotions combined, FISCOs and FICNSOs exhibit lower ER accuracy than PFC ($p \leq .001$). Results will be deepened for each discrete emotion using the sensitivity index (d'). The absence of difference between FISCOs and FICNSOs will be discussed regarding the international literature, as results suggest this feature to be transversal of antisocial populations rather than specific to FISCOs.

Is accurate recognition of emotion expressions associated with lower actuarial and structured professional judgment risk assessment scores? An exploratory research among forensic inpatients

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Research identified socio-affective processes, relying, among others, on Emotion Recognition (ER), as central to offending (Thornton, 2002). Although risk assessment (RA) instruments include socio-affective factors such as “Problems of introspection,” these dynamic risk factors are rarely operationalized except through clinical judgment. Moreover, no research assessed associations between ER and RA. The sample includes 28 forensic inpatients ($M = 42.70$, $SD = 13.56$) from a High-Risk Security Forensic Hospital ($M = 9.22$, $SD = 9.53$) of which 15 inpatients committed at least one sexual offense. The protocol was composed of four computerized tasks assessing three ER modalities: faces (NimStim), prosody (GEMEP), semantic (homemade scenari), and body postures (BESST). Actuarial (VRAG-R) and Structured Professional Judgment (HCR-20v3) RA instruments were employed. Using multiple linear regressions, preliminary results considering all emotions combined indicated that facial ER accuracy negatively predicted non-violent prior (VRAG-R item 5) ($\beta = .16$; $B = -9.31$; $p \leq .05$). Semantic ER accuracy negatively predicted HCR-20v3 risk management subscale ($\beta = .29$; $B = -5.28$; $p \leq .01$). There was no correlation between RA scores and prosodic ER. Analyses will be deepened using the sensitivity index (d') for every six discrete emotions. Results will be discussed regarding international literature.

The pilot of a new internet offending assessment framework in Scotland

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In Scotland, a two year pilot commenced from June 2022 of a new internet offending assessment framework. The framework was developed in response to concerns around defensible decision making in relation to risk assessment and management of those convicted of offences involving indecent images of children (IIOC). Internet offenders appear to be a heterogeneous population therefore risk assessment tools developed to assess risk posed by contact sexual offenders may not be appropriate. As such, the framework incorporates the Child Pornography Offender Risk Tool (CPORT) which was developed for use with this population.

The framework includes the application of the CPORT and a structured analysis of offending examining the pattern, nature, seriousness and likelihood of offending. There is a particular focus on risk factors relating to antisociality and sexual interest in children. The framework aims to help identify those that are lower or higher likelihood of committing a contact sexual offence. It also aims to assist in informing decisions such as whether a community disposal is feasible or whether a fuller assessment of risk is required.

This presentation will explore the development of the framework and the current progress of the pilot including ongoing and planned research.

Neuropsychological deficits in men convicted of a sexual offense against children

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Deficits in executive functions, such as cognitive flexibility or inhibition are a well-known risk factor for general and violent offending. In how far neuropsychological deficits also increase the risk for sexual offending against children is less clear so far. In an own recent systematic review, we found that men convicted for a sexual offence against children (CSA-offenders) have more deficits in set-switching, inhibition, and verbal functioning compared to health controls, however, no distinct differences were found in case CSA-offenders were compared with other offending populations. In a first own study, we could replicate these findings. However, latent class analyses revealed that a small subset of CSA offenders with intense pedophilic sexual interests showed most pronounced neuropsychological deficits. In a second study, we could show that deficits in inhibition and decision-making in CSA-offenders become especially pronounced in case sexual child stimuli are used within the paradigms. However, again this accounted only for those CSA-offenders with intense pedophilic sexual interests. Deficits in cognitive functioning seem to be correlated with the intensity of pedophilic sexual interests suggesting that such impairments might be a relevant factor in the etiology of deviant sexuality and should thus be given greater consideration in psychotherapeutic interventions.

Assessment and pharmacological treatment of compulsive sexual behavior disorder: The new WFSBP guidelines

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Compulsive sexual behavior disorder (CSBD) was included as an impulse control disorder in the ICD-11 referring to a persistent pattern of failure to control sexual impulses and urges resulting in repetitive sexual behaviors leading to clinically relevant distress. Compulsive sexual behaviors (CSB) are a specific risk factor for sexual recidivism in men convicted for a sexual offense and thus their treatment is of utmost importance. In 2022, guidelines on the assessment and the pharmacological treatment of CSBD have been published. The current presentation aims at providing a methodological overview about the current state of research on the assessment and treatment of CSBD. Furthermore, the proposed treatment algorithm will be introduced to the audience.

Is it all about the format of the message? Exploring factors affecting the perception of reoffence risk

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A proper understanding of risk estimates is necessary to ensure that risk management is adequately aligned with the risk assessment outcomes. Knowledge about factors affecting perceptions of an offender's risk level remains however limited. The current study examined the effect of risk communication format (i.e., categorical and numerical), individual characteristics (i.e., attitudes towards sex offenders and numeracy skills), and experience with risk assessment on laypersons' and professionals' perceptions of risk assessment evidence. Participants (N=176; M=25.38 years, SD=7.31) read a description of an offender's sexual offence, evaluated the enclosed risk assessment evidence and completed the Community Attitudes Towards Sex Offenders questionnaire (Harper & Hogue, 2015) and the Numeracy Understanding in Medicine instrument (Schapira et al., 2014). Results showed that the risk ratings of the participants in the categorical communication condition were significantly higher than the ratings of those in the probabilistic condition. In addition, participants with no experience in risk assessment evaluated the risk of reoffence significantly higher compared to those with experience. Attitudes towards sex offenders and numeracy skills were not related to the participants' perceptions of risk. Recommendations for practice and future research will be discussed.

“Sexual predators do not deserve my empathy”: Knowledge about and attitudes towards minor-attracted persons and Stop it Now! in mental health professionals

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Providing psychosocial services to minor-attracted persons (MAPs) can help improve their well-being and prevent child abuse. Many professionals are however reluctant to offer services to MAPs because of, among other things, fear of liability and a lack of knowledge (e.g., Schmidt & Niehaus, 2022). Partly to address this gap, Stop it Now! offers free and confidential help to anyone, including professionals, with questions or concerns regarding child sexual abuse. Knowledge on the views about MAPs and Stop it Now! in professionals remains however limited. This study aimed to explore the attitudes towards MAPs, the willingness to offer services to MAPs, and the views about Stop it Now! in mental health professionals. An online survey was completed by 230 mental health professionals ($M=34.78$ years, $SD=10.56$; 89% female). The professionals generally exhibited positive attitudes towards MAPs, yet knowledge on MAPs was limited and various obstacles to work with this group were identified, including punitive attitudes towards MAPs, a lack of trust, and own traumatic experiences. Although only a minority had contacted Stop it Now! and a small majority did not know Stop it Now!, most participants exhibited positive attitudes towards the organization. Recommendations for practice and research will be discussed.

The characteristics and treatment needs of clients of child sexual abuse prevention programmes: Norwegian and New Zealand samples

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While child sexual abuse (CSA) intervention has traditionally focussed on preventing the recurrence of offending in known client groups, interventions designed to prevent the onset of CSA are becoming increasingly prevalent internationally. These initiatives tend to target individuals who self-identify as experiencing sexual attraction towards minors, who self-refer for therapeutic intervention without the need for an offence to have occurred for treatment eligibility. One such programme – Stand Strong, Walk Tall (SSWT) – has been available in New Zealand since 2022, and has also been available across Norway since 2020 (known as Det Finnes Hjelp [Help is Here; DFH]). Both SSWT and DFT were established with a dual purpose of providing psychological treatment for individuals with a sexual attraction to minors, and increasing our knowledge base regarding the nature and needs of this client population. In this talk we will present an overview of the descriptive data collected thus far about the clients who have accessed the SSWT and DFH services. This will include client demographics and emerging patterns in the quality of life of presenting clients, as well as areas of strength and treatment need. These findings will help further our understanding of the minor-attracted population, and inform the ongoing development of responsive CSA prevention services.

A relapse prevention therapy programme for juvenile sex offenders (“ThePaS”)

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The Study: Two versions of ThePaS have been developed on the basis of scientific literature – ThePaS-I (focus on specific relapse prevention techniques) and ThePaS-II (focus on social skills training). The aim of the study was to evaluate the efficacy of ThePaS and to compare the two treatment conditions. Juveniles who were officially adjudicated of a sexual offense were included. Data have been collected at three assessment points. ThePaS-I and ThePaS-II are equivalent regarding efficacy, duration and intensity. Therefore, the participants could be randomly assigned to ThePaS-I or ThePaS-II. This design made it possible to perform a study in line with the Maryland Scale of Scientific Rigor (Sherman et al., 1998). Outcomes of the study prove the efficacy of ThePaS-I and ThePaS-II.

The Manual: The ThePaS-Manual is based on the findings of the study. It is also based on the authors’ clinical experience with the target clientele. It is used in Switzerland. Its primary goal is to achieve behavioral changes in the participants to prevent further offenses. It is designed to be both offense- and disorder-specific as well as skills- and resource-oriented. ThePaS follows a modular structure and a goal-oriented process.

Sexual offenders forensic inpatients who present an intellectual disability: Which specificities?

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Etiological and risk factors for sexual offenses committed by men with ID are complex and intricate, just as for mainstream sexual offending. Most of these risk factors seem similar to those associated with mainstream sexual offending. In contrast, others are more specific variables that seem to better characterize sexual offenders with ID. This study aims to review the current state of the art through the presentation and discussion of the results of one of our research projects on this topic. The sample ($N = 49$) consists of adult male forensic patients who commit sexual offenses (public offense, molestation, and rape). The sample has been divided into two groups: (1) Sexual offenders with an ID ($n = 26$), with an average age at the time of the offense of 31.42 years ($\sigma = 12.68$); and (2) sexual offenders without ID ($n = 23$), with an average age at the time of the offense of 36.57 years ($\sigma = 8.50$). We analyzed psychiatric expertises to score the Coding guide for violent incidents: instrumental versus hostile/reactive aggression (Cornell, 1996) and the VRAG-R (Rice, Harris, & Lang, 2013). The results will be discussed in light of the literature.

Experiences of autism in prison-based interventions to address sexual offending

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Research suggests that sexual offending is one of the more common forms of offending behaviour committed by autistic individuals. Despite this, very little research has investigated approaches to rehabilitation for autistic individuals who have sexually offended. The small body of literature that does exist suggests that interventions to address sexual offending may not be sufficiently adapted for this group, but there is a need for further empirical research. The present study will (i) explore how prison-based interventions to address sexual offending are experienced by autistic individuals with sexual offense convictions and the staff who work with them, and (ii) identified the features of prison-based sexual offending interventions that may be challenging or beneficial for autistic individuals with sexual convictions, from the perspective of those involved in treatment. The presentation unpacks a multi-perspective phenomenologically-informed thematic analysis which identified three themes of 'Feeling overwhelmed', 'Out of comfort zone', and '(Dis)connection'. These themes highlight some of the key issues relating to the format and delivery of interventions, as well as the impact of the broader prison context on rehabilitation. Findings from this study have informed practical recommendations for how best to work with autistic individuals with sexual offence convictions in prison-based interventions.

The offending behaviour of those sentenced to the Order for Lifelong Restriction (OLR)

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The Order for Lifelong Restriction (OLR) is a unique sentence that is only available in Scotland. It is not imposed for the crime committed but instead for the risk the individual is assessed to present to the public. It is a true lifelong sentence where individuals will be subject to a Risk Management Plan (RMP) for the rest of their life. As such, the OLR is considered to be an exceptional sentence intended for the minority of individuals who pose a risk of serious harm to the public.

Whilst it has been available since 2006, little is known about the population of individuals subject to an OLR. The Risk Management Authority (RMA) conducted research exploring the offending behaviour of this population. This was achieved through examining the pattern and nature of index and previous offending (sexual, violent, intimate partner violence and other offending) in addition to alleged offending and self-reported offending. The offending behaviour of sub-groups within the population were also explored such as young people subject to an OLR and individuals with no previous convictions who are subject to an OLR.

The research was published in October 2022 on the Risk Management Authority website.

Understanding and deterring online sexual communications with minors: A qualitative study

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Online sexual communications with minors have been on the rise over recent years, posing a significant threat to young people online. To understand adult men's pathways into online sexual communications and ways to prevent and disrupt such online behaviours, N = 14 men who had sought confidential support for their online behaviours were interviewed. Thematic Analysis of the transcripts identified five themes (Social Aspects, Mental Health and Psychological Aspects, Justification for Offending, Secrecy, and Technology). All five themes included both Risk Factors for offending and Protective Factors supporting the desistance or disruption of offending. Participants reported intimacy issues, excessive or addictive online behaviours, and escaping reality as pathways into offending. They suggested wider education, anonymous support, and warning messages and increased monitoring of chat platforms as prevention approaches for online sexual communications with minors. The current findings will inform the support offered to people seeking help for their online sexual communications with minors and the messages of deterrence campaigns to encourage people at risk of offending to seek support for their behaviour.

Clinical experiences so far from the Norwegian ‘Det Finnes Hjelp’ programme

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The ‘Det finnes hjelp’ [Short: DFH. Translated: Help is Here) was established in Norway in 2020 and is currently offered nationally as a specialist mental health service to adults experiencing sexual attraction to minors. The service operates on a self-referral basis and is intended to represent an available and easily accessible service for a client group largely unknown within the ordinary mental health service. Oslo University Hospital is currently the largest DFH treatment site and the current talk will focus on general clinical experiences, considerations and challenges as seen from a therapists’ point of view.

Reducing risk by other means than by treatment. The omnipresence of the correctional system: A case study

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The transition from prison back into the community poses unique challenges for men who have sexually abused children, for agencies, authorities and the wider community. Whether cautiously optimistic or elated to leave prison behind, the new reality of negotiating every move under the correctional gaze can be testing. Based on a case study set in Aotearoa New Zealand, I explore the interplay between a person with sexual offense convictions and the correctional system. Dialogue and the development of strong relationships are often considered key to effecting positive change and have the potential to reduce recidivism by additional means to treatment. This approach is somewhat incongruent with a system that prefers predictability and a control-oriented approach, which, as Toch (2006) proposed, inspires deception. Resentment, frustration, annoyance and cynicism are frequently the results of perceived procedural injustices and are less conducive to a smooth transition into community. A more humane and relationally sound pathway to re-entering society has the potential to enhance the men's wellbeing, decrease recidivism, improve relationships with agencies and create safer communities.

Gender concept in child sexual offenders

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Distortions in information processing on social relation are considered important in child sexual offending. The concept of gender, or more precisely: its content and the way it is used, as it is closely related to sexuality seems relevant in this context. Surprisingly, research data on gender concept processing in child sexual offenders (CSOs) is scarce.

The aim of the study was to explore this issue. Materials collected from a sample of 46 CSOs and three comparison groups (rapists, non-sexual offenders, and never convicted controls) were analysed. A mixed qualitative-quantitative methodology was used to explore the usage and content of gender concept in drawings of human figures and narratives about them. CSOs were more ready for gendering child figures when they were depicted with adult figures. Moreover, CSOs were more prone to attribute stereotypically male characteristics to children. They described adult male figures with different gender features depending on context: referring more to female stereotypical features in presence of adult female figures and more to male characteristics in the presence of children. These results will be presented in the poster, together with data on the usage of age-related concepts and their distortions in CSOs.

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Clemens Cording, Norbert Nedopil (Hrsg.)

Psychiatrische Begutachtungen im Zivilrecht

Ein Handbuch für die Praxis

Neuaufgabe 2023

Zivilrechtliche Fragestellungen sind ein zentraler Bestandteil der Forensischen Psychiatrie. Begutachtungen zur Geschäfts- und Testier(un)fähigkeit, zur Betreuungsbedürftigkeit, zum Arztrecht und zu Haftpflichtfragen nehmen an Häufigkeit und Bedeutung immer mehr zu, und Fragestellungen wie die posthume Beurteilung der Testier(un)fähigkeit gehören zu den schwierigsten Gutachtensthemen überhaupt.

Die hiermit vorliegende 4., vollständig überarbeitete und aktualisierte Neuaufgabe des seit 2014 als Standardwerk geltenden Lehrbuchs enthält erstmals auch ein Kapitel zur Freiverantwortlichkeit der Entscheidung für einen assistierten Suizid, berücksichtigt die ab 01.01.2023 geltende Reform des Betreuungsrechts sowie das neue Patientenrechtgesetz und geht auch auf die bevorstehende Einführung der ICD-11 ein. In bewährter Weise werden alle wesentlichen psychiatrischen Gutachtensfragen des deutschen Zivilrechts in psychopathologischer wie in rechtlicher Hinsicht systematisch dargestellt; dazu werden zahlreiche praxisorientierte Tipps und Hilfe-



stellungen gegeben – etwa zu den maßgeblichen Beurteilungskriterien, zur Technik der retrospektiven und posthumer Befundermittlung, zum Verfahrensrecht (FamFG und ZPO), zu den Fallstricken und Fehlerquellen, zur Abfassung des schriftlichen Gutachtens und zum Auftreten vor Gericht. Eigene Kapitel gelten der aktuellen Rechtslage in der Schweiz und in Österreich.

Das Lehrbuch wendet sich an alle, die mit zivilrechtlichen Gutachten zu tun haben, sei es als Gerichts- oder Privatgutachter, sei es als Rechtsanwälte, Notare, Richter, Rechtspfleger oder Beteiligte.

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Sex offender treatment in a lifespan perspective –

New challenges from social media and from children and adolescents with harmful sexual behavior

On behalf of the Scientific and the Local Organizing Committees, we invite you to the 17th conference of The International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO) in Trondheim. The conference takes place from August 30th to September 1st, 2023 at the riverside hotel Scandic Nidelven located in the very city center.

The conference theme is sex offender treatment in a lifespan perspective. Some start their offending career as a child or an adolescent, others when they are grown-ups. In many cases, perpetrators basic emotional needs might have been ignored or even been seriously violated from early childhood on.

To meet the complexity of sexual offending behavior, it is necessary to have a lifespan perspective. Developing treatment programs for children and young persons with harmful sexual behavior is a way of reaching the persons on their pathway from childhood to adulthood. Here we can see how childhood and adulthood is interacting with each other. Here we can also see that sexual offending behavior should not be understood just in the light of individual, psychological factors. Ideas about masculinity, femininity and sexuality are a part of overarching, general, ideological attitudes in society.

When focusing on treatment in a lifespan perspective, we also will look into the challenges from the new electronic media. A rapid growing internet disrupts the dividing lines between fantasy and reality. Wide ranges of questions emerge; such as the understanding of what a sexual offence might be, what is the difference between fantasy and reality, the relations between online offences and hands on offences. And so on.

