This workshop is designed for forensic evaluators, judges, attorneys, and other professionals who seek to improve their knowledge and skill in the area of paraphilic disorders. Diagnostic assessments of sexual offenders are common fodder for forensic evaluators. Abnormal sexual interests, diagnosed as paraphilic disorders, are important risk factors that are also commonly at the nexus of forensic referral questions. This presentation specifically targets the improvement of skills for assessing the presence of paraphilic disorders that lie on the Agonistic Continuum, -the continuum of sexual preference involving the degree of partner agony requisite for sexual arousal. In addition to accurate diagnostic assessment, the objective of this presentation is to assist professionals in communicating credibly and helpfully in evaluations and testimony regarding the presence or absence of Agonistic spectrum paraphilic disorders such as Sexual Sadism, and Arousal to Coercion. Attendees will leave with summary understanding of the extant research base about the agonistic disorders, its limitations, and strategies for communicating this research in a way that is helpful to the court. Special focus will be on ruling out non-paraphilic motivations for sexual misbehavior, and accurately identifying co-morbid conditions that may contribute to sexual misconduct. Also discussed are several tools for assessing paraphilic disorders, as well as the controversies of diagnosing in conditions without clinical interview, when records are scarce, and on minimum victim counts. Along with didactic training, case vignettes, video, evaluation excerpts and testimony transcripts will be utilized as training methods.

**Learning Goals and Objectives:**

- Participants will obtain a full understanding of what is meant by the Agonistic Continuum.
  - Training will outline the history of DSM and ICD and the controversy over categorical versus continuous models of mental illness.
  - Training will summarize the research in support of the continuum model of sexual interests.
  - Using video, case vignette, and data from objective measures, participants will learn how identify various preference points on the agonistic spectrum.
- Participants will learn how to properly assess for and diagnose various preference points on the Agonistic Continuum.
  - Participants will learn the research support for Sexual Sadism and Arousal to Coercion.
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- Using video of real cases, and case vignettes participants will learn how to identify the symptoms of Sexual Sadism and Paraphilic arousal to coercion and how to differentiate the presence of one from the other.
- Participants will learn common diagnostic rule-outs and co-morbid conditions that are often mis-diagnosed as Agonistic spectrum paraphilic disorders.
- The challenges of diagnosing based on minimum victims counts, in absence of clinical interview, when data points are conflicting and other less than ideal diagnostic circumstances will be elaborated and specific strategies to reconcile will be offered.

- Participants will learn how to communicate helpfully and credibly about paraphilic disorders that lie on the agonistic continuum.
  - The various of purposes for paraphilic disorder assessments in forensic evaluations will be described.
  - Participants will learn simple, effective strategies for communicating in written reports, by way of real report examples.
  - Participants will learn helpful ways to communicate diagnosis in the courtroom, by way of video, feedback from courtroom professionals and trial transcripts.
  - Participants will learn to avoid common courtroom blunders and traps when it comes to communicating about Sexual Sadism and Arousal to Coercion.