

## ***BETTER TOGETHER***

2018 ATSA Conference | Wednesday October 17 | 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**A-16**

### **Understanding and Evaluating Research Studies: The Basics**

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Do you skip the method and results sections of articles, and read only the abstract, introduction, and discussion? This seminar will provide an introduction to research methodology to help you read, make sense of, and evaluate the method and results sections of studies relevant to explanation, risk assessment, and treatment of sexual offending. For example, we will present the basics of research design, threats to validity, and statistics. We will also present some of the more advanced statistical analyses commonly used in this area, such as receiver operating characteristic (ROC). Our approach will be practical and interactive.

#### **Learning Goals:**

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to read, make sense of, and evaluate the method and results sections of studies relevant to explanation, risk assessment, and treatment of sexual offending.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify different research designs and their associated strengths and weaknesses.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify threats to validity.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to understand the basics of statistics.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to understand some of the more advanced statistical analyses commonly used in this area.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to read and interpret effect sizes commonly used in this area.

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**Kevin Nunes, PhD** is an associate professor and director of the Aggressive Cognitions and Behaviour Research Lab in the Department of Psychology at Carleton University. The main focus of his research is on the conceptualization and measurement of cognitions (e.g., attitudes, beliefs, expectancies, etc.) thought to be relevant to sexual and nonsexual violent behavior, and the role these cognitions may play in violent behavior. His main goal is to contribute to scientific knowledge about the causes of violence, which is the foundation of effective and efficient assessment and intervention aimed at managing and reducing violence.

**Dr. Alberto Choy** is the Section Chief of Forensic Psychiatry with Alberta Hospital Edmonton and an Assistant Professor with the University of Alberta since April 2004. Dr. Choy finished his psychiatric training with a fellowship in forensic psychiatry at the University of Toronto, subspecializing in sexual offenders and risk assessment. Subsequently, he worked at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto, in the original mental health courts in Toronto, and in correctional clinics throughout Toronto and northern Ontario. With the police services and through the Universities of Toronto and Alberta, he has provided courses and lectures internationally on various aspects of forensic psychiatry, violence, sexual offenders, risk assessment and treatment.