

## ***BETTER TOGETHER***

2018 ATSA Conference | Thursday October 18 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**T-01**

### **Toward an Improved Understanding of Hypersexuality**

Symposium Chair: Drew A. Kingston, PhD  
Royal Ottawa Health Care Group

Hypersexuality has been characterized by extremely intense and frequent sexual urges or activities that produce distress and/or impairment to the individual. Hypersexuality plays an important role in the etiology of sexual aggression and studies have underscored its importance as a psychologically meaningful risk factor (Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2009; Kingston & Bradford, 2013; Briken, 2012). As such, it is an important construct in dynamic risk assessments (Wong, Olver, Nicholaichuk, & Gordon, 2003) and treatment programs (Marshall & Marshall, 2006). However, since its contentious consideration for inclusion as a disorder in DSM-5, considerable disagreement remains as to whether or not this is a distinct disorder, as opposed to a simple variant of human sexual behavior. Moreover, the construct is riddled with problems ranging from issues surrounding its core theoretical conceptualization and lack of appropriate norms as well as specific issues about the content and structure of the available measures (Graham, Walters, Harris, & Knight, 2015). The aims of the proposed symposium are to elucidate the controversies about the construct and to present new data from our laboratories that address issues about the nature and underlying structure of hypersexuality. The symposium is divided into two parts. In the first part Lesleigh Pullman and Drew Kingston will present results from a meta-analysis on the distribution of total sexual outlet in a non-clinical population. In the second and final paper, Mark Olver and Drew Kingston will present much needed normative data on several measures of hypersexuality in non-clinical populations and will present updated results (using taxometric analyses) on the underlying latent structure of hypersexuality. The relevance of the research to assessment and treatment of hypersexuality will be discussed.

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### **How Much Is Too Much? An Examination of Total Sexual Outlet in the General Population**

Lesleigh E. Pullman, PhD Candidate  
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Increasing attention has been given to the study of uncontrolled and distressing sexuality within the general population over the past few decades. This concept has been referred to by many different names, including: sexual compulsivity, sexual addiction, and hypersexuality. Hypersexuality is typically understood as intense, intrusive, and repetitive fantasies, desires and sexual behaviours. It is most popularly measured using the concept of Total Sexual Outlet (TSO), which is the number of orgasms a person experiences in a given week, with 7 or more orgasms per week for at least 6 months described as hypersexual (Kafka, 1997, 2001). Kafka's concept of TSO and the suggested cut-off of 7+ orgasms/week for at least 6 months is still widely used despite some recent concerns about its relevance and applicability. In his proposal to include Hypersexual Disorder in the DSM-5, Kafka (2010) updated his definition of hypersexuality to incorporate modern research findings but, unfortunately, did not update his cut-off score of frequent sexual activity to correspond to current sexuality trends.

The modernization of established norms associated with hypersexuality are essential to ensure that preventative resources are targeted toward the correct population and that, in a forensic context, our capacity to predict risky/illegal behaviour is as accurate as possible. The goal of the current study, via a meta-analysis, is to synthesize past research in the area of hypersexuality to establish a more accurate general population norm of what constitutes hypersexual desire ( $k = 37$  samples). As a statistical technique, meta-analysis is able to provide a very robust estimate of population norms associated with hypersexuality. Additionally, important moderator variables - such as age, sex, relationship status, year of publication, and method of reporting - can be assessed to explain heterogeneity in such population estimates. This analysis can have important implications for the assessment and treatment of hypersexuality within sexual offender populations.

#### **Learning Goals:**

- Describe the concept of Total Sexual Outlet (TSO), how it relates to hypersexuality, and how it is traditionally measured.
- Present the results of a meta-analysis to provide a robust estimate of TSO in the general population and examine potential moderators.
- Explain how these results are important to sexual offending research and practice.

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### **Dimensionality and Norms of Common Metrics Used to Define and Assess Hypersexuality**

Mark E. Olver, PhD  
University of Saskatchewan  
Drew A. Kingston, PhD  
Royal Ottawa Health Care Group

In this presentation, we discuss historical and current definitions and conceptual models of non-paraphilic hypersexuality. Considerable emphasis is placed on discussing norms and psychometric properties of common ways in which hypersexuality is assessed. Explanatory models and evidence regarding the underlying latent structure of the construct will be discussed with emphasis placed on implications for understanding and assessing hypersexuality.

Theoretical discussions pertaining to latent structure of hypersexuality are augmented by recent evidence obtained from two non-offending samples of University students ( $n = 840$ ) and community participants ( $n = 611$ ). These samples were used as the basis for developing Canadian community-based norms. Exploratory factor analyses were conducted across samples in both male and female participants. Three latent dimensions were each identified from the Sexual Compulsivity Scale (Dyscontrol, Interference, Preoccupation) and Hypersexual Behavior Inventory (Coping, Dyscontrol, and Interference). Next, three quasi-independent and non-redundant taxometric procedures (MAMBAC; MAXCOV; L-Mode) were used with the factor scale scores to evaluate the latent structure of hypersexuality. With some notable differences, results generally supported prior research (Graham et al., 2015; Walters et al., 2011) suggesting that hypersexuality is best characterized as a continuous/dimensional construct.

#### **Learning Goals:**

- Present Canadian normative data on hypersexuality from a large, combined normative sample
- Understand the latent dimensions (taxonicity) and hence psychological structure, of hypersexuality
- Explain the implications for theory and clinical practice (i.e., areas to intervene)

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**Lesleigh E. Pullman** is a PhD Candidate in Experimental Forensic Psychology. Lesleigh earned her B.A.(hons) from Carleton University in 2011, under the supervision of Dr. Kevin Nunes. That same year, she continued her education in the combined MA-Ph.D. program in Experimental Psychology at the University of Ottawa, under the supervision of Dr. Michael Seto (Royal's Institute of Mental Health Research, University of Ottawa). She expects to complete her degree by August, 2018. Her current research involves examining etiological explanations of incestuous sexual behavior, particularly from an evolutionary psychology framework. Other areas of interest include psychopathy, hypersexuality, and resiliency as it relates to criminal behavior.

**Drew A. Kingston** received his doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Ottawa and completed his residency at the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group. He is a registered psychologist in the province of Ontario and is currently the senior psychologist and the Director of Groups and Program Evaluation at the St. Lawrence Valley Correctional and Treatment Centre, a secure treatment unit for incarcerated mentally disordered offenders. Dr. Kingston is on the editorial boards of the *Archives of Sexual Behavior* and *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment* and serves as an ad-hoc reviewer for several journals. He has published a number of articles and book chapters in the areas of hypersexuality, exhibitionism, pedophilia, and sexual sadism, the impact of pornography on sexual aggression, and the sexual offence cycle.

**Mark E. Oliver PhD** is Professor and Registered Doctoral Psychologist (Saskatchewan) at the University of Saskatchewan, where he is involved in program administration, graduate and undergraduate teaching, research, and clinical training. Prior to his academic appointment, Mark worked as a clinical psychologist in various capacities, including providing assessment, treatment, and consultation services to young offenders in the Saskatoon Health Region and with adult federal offenders in the Correctional Service of Canada. Mark's research interests include offender risk assessment and treatment, young offenders, psychopathy, and the evaluation of therapeutic change. He is the co-developer of the Violence Risk Scale-Sexual Offender version (VRS-SO) and he provides training and consultation services internationally in the assessment and treatment of sexual, violent, and psychopathic offenders.