

## ***BETTER TOGETHER***

2018 ATSA Conference | Thursday October 18 | 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

**T-35**

### **Risk-Need-Responsivity Applications in Sexual Violence Risk Assessment, Treatment, and Management**

Symposium Chair: Mark E. Olver, PhD, RD Psych  
University of Saskatchewan

The effective integration and coordination of evidence informed assessment and treatment services is essential to the reduction and prevention of future sexual violence. Helpful assessments can identify the domains and inform the methods in which to intervene with men who are at elevated risk of negative outcomes (e.g., recidivism, treatment attrition and engagement). Effective interventions, in turn, can help these persons make positive changes on psychologically meaningful risk factors that are putative causes of recidivism. This symposium intends to extend our understanding of risk-need-responsivity (RNR) based applications to the assessment, treatment, and management of sexual violence through three presentations. The first presentation is a cluster analytic investigation of empirically derived Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI) subtypes and RNR correlates, such as recidivism and responsivity considerations. The second presentation examines the role and relevance of intimacy and loneliness as treatment targets and the need vs. responsivity ramifications of these domains in the context of sexual offender treatment. The final presentation is a meta-analysis of the effectiveness of interventions for pedohebephilic interests in sexual offenders against children. Taken together, the presentations identify critical RNR based considerations, with implications for research and practice in sexual offense risk assessment and treatment.

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### **A Cluster Analytic Examination of Violent and Sexual Offender PAI Profile Subtypes: Implications for RNR**

Carissa Toop, B.A. (Hons.)  
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Previous lines of research have demonstrated meaningful relationships between the scores of self-report psychological inventories and important forensic criteria. Among these tools, the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI; Morey, 1991, 2007) is widely used and researched with violent and sexual offenders. To date, the PAI has demonstrated associations with correlates of risk, including institutional misconduct, technical breaches, and sexual and non-sexual violent recidivism (Gardner, Boccaccini, Bitting, & Edens, 2015; Jung, Toop, & Ennis, 2017). However, relatively less emphasis has been placed on establishing the tool's relationships with criminogenic need and responsivity. The present study builds on the existing literature by examining Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) correlates of empirically-derived PAI profile subtypes. Model based clustering of PAI scales generated three clusters termed non-disordered, predominately antisocial, and disordered. These three groups were compared on their trajectories of general and violent recidivism and on the study's RNR variables. Notable between-group differences were observed, with the disordered group demonstrating steeper trajectories of recidivism, lower levels of education, and lower levels of cognitive ability. These findings are consistent with a recent cluster analysis of Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2 (MMPI-2) profiles in sample of sexual offenders (Olver, Coupland, & Kurtenbach, 2018). In the current study, PAI scores were also predictive of sexual offender treatment attrition, suggesting a link between the severity of psychopathology and treatment engagement and completion per the responsivity principle. The RNR implications of the study's findings will be discussed.

#### **Learning Goals:**

By the conclusion of this session, attendees will gain a better appreciation of:

- How empirically derived subtypes of violent and sexual offenders differ in terms of their personality and psychopathology as measured by the PAI.
- The relationship between PAI profiles and RNR correlates, including trajectories of recidivism and responsivity considerations.
- The use of the PAI as a forensic-relevant tool for clinical assessment and decision-making.

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### **Intimacy and Loneliness: Etiological and Clinical Significance in Men Who Have Offended Sexually**

Krystyn Margeotes, MA  
Farron Wielinga, BA (Hons)  
Mark E. Olver, PhD, RD Psych  
University of Saskatchewan

The role attributed to intimacy deficits and loneliness in the etiology and maintenance of sexual offending has been explored widely in the literature, where current findings suggest that loneliness may interact with other predisposing factors (e.g., intimacy deficits) to influence sexual offending (Cortoni & Marshall, 2001; Marshall & Hambley, 1996). Men who have sexually offended are hypothesized to display intimacy dispositions which increase their risk to engage in non-consensual sexual behaviour (McGrath, Cummings, Burchard, Zeoli, & Ellerby, 2010), and that propensity to reengage in sexually abusive behaviours is bolstered by the fear of intimacy and a low involvement in practices that lead to intimacy (Martin & Tardif, 2015). This presentation explores intimacy and loneliness, their etiological significance in men who have committed sexual offences, viability as a treatment target, and their correlates with other psychological constructs and outcomes in a treated sample of men who have committed sexual offences with pre- and posttreatment ratings on several self-report measures and an average follow-up period of 5.42 ( $SD = 1.93$ ) years postrelease ( $N = 348$ ). Factor analysis of two self-report measures—The Revised UCLA Loneliness scale (Russell, Peplau, & Cutrona, 1980) and the Miller Social Intimacy scale (MSIS; Miller & Lefcourt, 1982)—identified key latent constructs: dimensions of social connectedness and isolation that underpinned loneliness, and dimensions of validation and emotional intimacy that underpinned social intimacy. In turn, these latent dimensions were correlated with self-report measures of empathy, cognitive distortions, acceptance of responsibility for offending, anxiety, and depression. Meaningful patterns of associations were found, specifically, that positive changes in intimacy were associated with decreased levels of depression,  $r = -.406$ ,  $n = 44$ ,  $p = .006$ . Further, positive changes within the construct of isolation were associated with increased fear of negative evaluations,  $r = .497$ ,  $n = 43$ ,  $p = .001$ , enhanced social avoidance and distress,  $r = .637$ ,  $n = 43$ ,  $p < .001$ , and elevated levels of depressive symptoms,  $r = .570$ ,  $n = 43$ ,  $p < .001$ . An offender's level of empathy toward their own victim was also associated with enhanced feelings of validation,  $r = .270$ ,  $n = 142$ ,  $p = .001$ , and increased levels of intimacy,  $r = .190$ ,  $n = 141$ ,  $p = .024$ . Scores on latent dimensions of intimacy and loneliness, however, were not predictive of recidivism. Clinical and research implications are discussed regarding the assessment and evaluation of change on psychological risk factors in treated men who have offended sexually.

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### **Learning Goals:**

- To understand the linkage between an offender's level of social intimacy and loneliness and their association with increased risk of sexual offending.
- To provide recommendations for effective sexual abuse prevention and intervention with regards to an offender's level of isolation, social connectedness, intimacy, and feelings of validation.
- To understand that loneliness and intimacy deficits are viable treatment targets for individuals who have sexually offended.

### **Effectiveness of Treatments for Pedohebephilic Interest in Sexual Offenders Against Children: A Meta-Analytic Review**

Ian V. McPhail, PhD Candidate  
Mark E. Olver, PhD, RD Psych  
University of Saskatchewan

Sexual interest in children is a main risk factor for the initiation and maintenance of sexual offending against children. Given the centrality of pedohebephilic interests in understanding and preventing sexual offending, a number of interventions have been developed to help men convicted of a sexual offence against a child to manage their sexual interest in children. In order to facilitate evidence-based practice with men who have committed a sexual offence against a child, we conducted a meta-analytic review of interventions aimed specifically to help these men manage their pedohebephilic interests. Twenty-three independent samples ( $N = 950$ ) were identified in a systematic review of the literature. Treatments included were behavioral, pharmaceutical, or comprehensive in modality.

We found that behavioral and pharmaceutical treatments were effective at helping sexual offenders manage their arousal to children; comprehensive programs showed some effectiveness, but this effect was lower compared to the other treatment modalities. For behavioural treatments, treatment gains were maintained on follow-up, suggesting treatment gains last over the long term. In addition, behavioural treatments seemed relatively equally effective for men with unrelated, related, female, and male victims; treatment effects were somewhat higher for adult sexual offenders compared to adolescent sexual offenders. Different kinds of behavioral treatments were also examined, and the available evidence suggests that satiation, olfactory aversion, and covert sensitization have some evidence base to support their effectiveness. Of importance, we found that level of pre-treatment arousal to children significantly moderated the effectiveness of treatment, suggesting treatment should only be provided to men who exhibit moderate or high pedohebephilic arousal. All forms of treatment were not effective in increasing arousal to adults.

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### **Learning Goals:**

- Understand what treatment modalities are effective at reducing pedohebephilic arousal.
- Understand what behavioural treatments are effective at reducing pedohebephilic arousal.
- Understand for whom treatments are effective at reducing pedohebephilic arousal.

**Mark E. Olver PhD, RD Psych** 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.

**Carissa Toop** is a graduate student of Clinical Psychology at the University of Saskatchewan. Prior to her graduate training, she earned a bachelor's degree (honours) in psychology from MacEwan University. Broadly speaking, Carissa's research and clinical interests lie in the assessment and treatment of sexual and non-sexual violence. She has published and presented on the topics of risk assessment, intimate partner violence, and sexual offending, and is a member of the ATSA Student Committee. Carissa is currently completing her doctoral degree under the supervision of Dr. Mark Olver. Her dissertation research will focus on the application of the Violence Risk Scale (VRS), a multi-purpose risk assessment tool, to intimate partner violence.

**Krystyn Margeotes, MA**, completed her masters degree in forensic psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and is currently a Clinical Psychology student at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. Her research interests include the treatment and rehabilitation of individuals who have committed sexual offenses and non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI).

**Ian McPhail is a PhD Candidate** in clinical psychology at the University of Saskatchewan. Ian has experience working with adult and adolescent sexual offenders and has worked with these clients in the community, in prisons, and in forensic psychiatric settings. He has also worked in the research unit of a provincial corrections ministry and has published on issues related to sexual offending and pedohebephilic interests.