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2018 ATSA Conference | Thursday October 18 | POSTER

Shortest Paths to Sexual and Violent Recidivism

Jan Willem van den Berg, MSc
Forensic Care Specialists
Wineke Smid, PhD
Forensic Care Specialists
Jolanda J. Kossakowski, MSc
University of Amsterdam
Daan van Beek, PhD
Private Practice
Denny Borsboom, PhD
University of Amsterdam
Erick Janssen, PhD
University of Leuven
Luk Gijs, PhD
University of Leuven

The relevance of including dynamic risk factors in the assessment and treatment of adult male sex offenders is increasingly recognized by researchers and clinicians. However, questions regarding the interrelatedness of dynamic risk factors and how they are connected to recidivism have as yet received little attention.

To generate hypotheses on the interrelatedness of dynamic risk factors and possible pathways to sexual and violent (including sexual contact) recidivism, we (Berg, Smid, Kossakowski, Beek, Borsboom, Janssen & Gijs, 2018) conducted graphical representations that indicate the shortest paths between individual risk factors and sexual and violent (including sexual contact) recidivism (Opsahl, Agneessens, & Skvoretz, 2010). STABLE-2007 data, obtained from the Dynamic Supervision Project (DSP; Hanson, Harris, Scott & Helmus, 2007), of 788 (network without recidivism) and 611 (networks including sexual and violent including sexual contact recidivism) adult male sex offenders was used.

This poster presents a short introduction in network analysis, and the method, results and conclusions of our research. The core of the poster is formed by two graphical representations that indicate the shortest paths to sexual and violent (including sexual contact) recidivism

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Berg, J.W. van den, Smid, W., Kossakowski, J.J., Beek, D.J. van, Borsboom, D., Janssen, E., Gijs, L. (2018, in preparation). Network Analysis Applied to Dynamic Risk Factors in Adult Male Sex Offenders.

Hanson, R. K., Harris, A.J.R., Scott, T., & Helmus, L. (2007). Assessing the risk of sexual offenders on community supervision: The Dynamic Supervision Project (Corrections Research User Report 2007-05). Ottawa, ON: Public Safety Canada. Retrieved from <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsracs/pblctns/ssssng-rsk-sxl-ffndrs/ssssng-rsk-sxl-ffndrs-eng.pdf>

Opsahl, T., Agneessens, F., & Skvoretz, J. (2010). Node centrality in weighted networks: Generalizing degree and shortest paths. *Social Networks*, 32, 245–251. doi:10.1016/j.socnet.2010.03.006

Jan Willem van den Berg is a psychotherapist at the Van der Hoeven Kliniek, a center for clinical forensic psychiatry in the Netherlands. His research and clinical interests converge on the topic of prevention of sexual offenses. From (t)his perspective, a community is best served by assessing and – through the application of cognitive behavioral treatment – reducing the risk of re-offending. As PhD researcher at the Institute for Family and Sexuality Studies at KU Leuven, Jan Willem aims to improve the quality of sex offender treatment through the development and evaluation of more effective and clinically useful risk assessment instruments and the exploration of treatment approaches that pay more attention to so-called ‘dynamic risk factors’. His research focuses on adult male sex offenders and is conducted under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Luk Gijs and Prof. Dr. Erick Janssen.