

## ***BETTER TOGETHER***

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### **Emotional Congruence with Children: Factor Structure, Group Differences, and Relationships with Other Risk Factors**

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Emotional congruence with children is a key risk factor for the initiation and maintenance of sexual offending against children. Much of the available research has examined emotional congruence with children in contact sexual offenders against children, while relatively little is known about this risk factor in online sexual offenders. The present study will examine several questions relevant to emotional congruence with children in online and contact sexual offenders against children. First, the study examines the factor structure of a measure of emotional congruence with children developed with internet offenders. Second, the study examines differences in emotional congruence with children between extrafamilial offenders, incest offenders, online offenders, and non-sexual offenders. Third, the study examines whether this measure of emotional congruence with children correlates with other known risk factors, such as pedophilic interest, cognitive distortions, and sexual pre-occupation, in expected ways (McPhail, Hermann, & Fernandez, 2014; Hermann, McPhail, Helmus, & Hanson, 2017).

**Sarah Paquette, M.Sc. Criminology**, is a doctoral student in psychology at the Université de Montréal. She also works within the Internet Sexual Child Exploitation (ICE) unit of the provincial police of Quebec (Sûreté du Québec) in Canada. Her research focuses on sexual crimes, more specifically, the study and measurement of offense-supportive cognitions as well as the atypical sexuality among online and contact sexual offenders against children.

**Ian McPhail is a Ph.D. 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.