

SHAPING THE FUTURE

2019 ATSA Conference | Friday November 8 | 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

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Understanding the Complexities and Structure of Hypersexuality

Symposium Chair: Drew A. Kingston, PhD
HOPE Program

Since its contentious consideration for inclusion as a disorder in the DSM-5, hypersexuality has remained a controversial construct (Kafka, 2010). Hypersexuality plays an important role in the etiological models of sexually aggressive behavior (Knight & Sims-Knight, 2003, 2004, 2011), and various measures of the construct have been found to covary with recidivism among those who have committed sexual offenses (Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2004; Kingston & Bradford, 2013; Briken, 2012; Thornton, 2016). Consequently, it has become an important target for assessment and treatment for individuals convicted of sexual aggression (Marshall & Marshall, 2006). Nonetheless, the construct is riddled with problems that range from global issues about its core theoretical conceptualization to specific issues about the content and structure of the scales used to measure it (Graham, Walters, Harris, & Knight, 2015; Kingston, 2018).

The aims of the proposed symposium include the elucidation of the controversies about the construct and the presentation of new data from our laboratories that address issues about the nature of the construct, the structure of its measures, and its place in the nomological network of factors critical to sexually aggressive behavior. In the first presentation, Margeotes, Wielinga, and Olver examine the interrelationship between hypersexuality, atypical sexual interests, and sexual attitudes with sexually coercive behavior in a non-offending sample. Following this presentation, Knight and Longpré present new data from two studies on the structure of hypersexuality and its covariation with impulsivity and sexually coercive behavior.

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An Examination of Pathways to Sexually Coercive Behavior in a Non-Forensic Community Sample

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

While a significant proportion of the non-offending population have deviant or otherwise atypical sexual fantasies (Joyal, 2018), there is little research examining sexual deviance, sexual fantasy, and their possible nexus with sexually coercive behaviors in nonclinical samples (Williams et al., 2009). It is advantageous to better understand the possible mechanisms, as well as attitudes and behaviors that may explain the association of sexual deviance to sexual coercion or other forms of maladaptive sexual behavior in a non-clinical sample. This presentation presents data that examine the interrelations of hypersexuality, sexually deviant fantasy, and sexual attitudes with self-reported sexually coercive behaviors in a non-offending sample.

A large sample ($N = 1,056$) from the university staff and student campus community completed self-report questionnaires via an online anonymous survey that concerned sexual compulsivity, fantasies, coercion, criminal attitudes, and a measure of social desirability. The base rate of engaging in any one of the identified 15 self-reported coercive or atypical sexual behaviors was high (85.1%), although overt coercive acts were comparatively uncommon (approximately 5%). Males reported greater frequency of atypical sexual interests (e.g., fetishes), engaging in acts of sexual coercion (e.g., use of pressure to obtain sex), or participating in consensual acts that were illegal (e.g., public sex). Results demonstrated that self-reported deviant fantasy, hypersexuality, aggressive tendencies, and attitudes of sexual entitlement were particularly strong, and generally uniquely incremental, predictors of unconventional or coercive sexual behavior across gender. The results suggest similar psychological processes underlying sexual coercion in a university sample occur as those formally documented in forensic populations. The theoretical significance of this model will be discussed in relation to its relevance to a non-offending population, and in relation to Seto's (2019) motivation-facilitation model of sexual offending.

Learning Goals:

- To summarize data on rates of sexually coercive and atypical sexual behaviors from a large representative staff and student university sample.
- To present data that examines associations of psychological constructs shown to underpin sexual violence with self-reported coercive sexually coercive/atypical behavior in a non-offending sample.

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- To present a model integrating extant findings with current theories of sexual offending.

Exploring the Structure and the Covariates of Hypersexuality

Raymond A. Knight, PhD

Brandeis University

Nicholas Longpré, PhD

University of Roehampton

Over the last two decades a consistent link has been found between an arousal/frequency latent trait of hypersexuality and the callous, manipulative aspects of psychopathy (see Knight & Guay, 2018). This link has emerged using a variety of measures of both psychopathy and sexual behavior and fantasy across diverse samples (e.g., Baughman et al., 2014; Carter et al., 2014). Focusing specifically on the arousal and frequency aspects of hypersexuality, Knight and Guay (2018) proposed a preliminary model for this covariation that hypothesized a link between the anticipatory aspect of sexual arousal (Stoléru et al., 2012) and potential deficits in reward neurocircuitry that are related to risk taking and callous-manipulativeness (e.g., Buckholtz et al., 2010a, 2010b; Sternberg, 2008). Recent data have suggested, however, that hypersexuality comprises two distinguishable subtypes. Its arousal/frequency aspects should be differentiated from the dysfunctional hypersexuality captured by the rejected DSM-5 hypersexual disorder criteria (e.g., Carvalho, Stulhofer, Vieira, & Jurin, 2015). The dysfunctional aspect of hypersexuality focuses on the use of sex as a coping mechanism, on sexual compulsivity, and on the negative behavioral and emotional consequences of sexual behavior rather than its frequency or strength (Kafka, 2010). Such anxiety driven, emotionally dysregulated sexuality is theoretically and descriptively more similar to the affectively dysregulated components of psychopathy (e.g., Hyde et al., 2014) than it is to the risk-taking, callous, manipulative components.

In this talk we will present the results of two studies on the structure of hypersexuality (Problematic Sexuality and Sexual Drive) and its covariation with types of impulsivity (Risk-taking, Callous-manipulative and Impulsive, Affectively Dysregulated), and the relation of both to other aspects of sexually aggressive behavior. For the first study, for which we presented the preliminary results in our last ATSA hypersexuality symposium, we will focus on more recent comprehensive analyses that we have done. The second study, which is embedded in a study on the Agonistic Continuum, provides both a replication and an extension of the original study, exploring purported covariates of the types of hypersexuality and impulsivity. The second study replicates the types of hypersexuality and impulsivity found in the first study, and suggests different correlations

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of these factors with other aspects of sexually aggressive behavior and fantasy. The proposed talk discusses the consequences of the findings for assessment and treatment.

Learning Goals:

- Participants will learn to differentiate the equivocal nature of hypersexuality distinguishing its arousal/frequency aspects from its ego-dystonic, dysfunctional aspects.
- Participants will learn the differential relation between these subtypes of hypersexuality and distinct types of impulsivity.
- Participants will learn about the differential correlates of the hypersexuality and impulsivity factors with other aspects of sexual aggression.
- Participants will learn our theoretical model that attempts to explain the results.

Financial interest: Dr. Knight was a developer of the MIDSA, some of whose scales were used in the research he will be presenting. For the new data presented, however, the full MIDSA was not administered. These scales were incorporated into a new research survey with multiple additional scales. There is at present no commercial intent for this research instrument. The MIDSA is a computerized inventory that is available commercially for treatment planning. The results of the present studies will enhance the interpretation of the relevant MIDSA scales.

Drew A. Kingston, PhD 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 licensed psychologist in the State of California and is currently the Senior Clinical Director of the HOPE program and is a research scientist at the Institute of Mental Health Research in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. 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.

Krystyn Margeotes, MA is a Clinical Psychology doctoral student at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. She received her masters degree in Forensic Psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Her research interests include the assessment, intervention, and rehabilitation of individuals who have committed sexual offenses, as well as non-suicidal self-injury and the role social media serves in the emergence and continuation of self-harm behaviors. Krystyn's dissertation research will examine offense analogue and offense replacement behaviors to sexual offending, under supervision of Dr. Mark Olver.

Farron Wielinga, BA (Hons) is a PhD student in Clinical Psychology at the University of Saskatchewan. Her dissertation will examine the use of dynamic risk instruments and protective factors to evaluate risk and treatment change in men convicted of sexual offences who are engaged in high-intensity, community-based treatment. Her other

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research interests include intimate partner violence and Indigenous issues within the justice system. Farron serves as a member of the ATSA Student Committee and is also a Clinical volunteer at the Student Wellness Initiative Towards Community Health (SWITCH), an inner-city, student-led clinic in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

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 Offense version (VRS-SO) and he provides training and consultation services internationally in the assessment and treatment of sexual, violent, and psychopathic persons.

Raymond A. Knight, PhD: Raymond Knight has been researching sexual violence for nearly four decades. Dr. Knight has published extensively on psychopathy, antisocial behavior, and sexual aggression. He is a co-creator of the Multidimensional Inventory of Development, Sex, and Aggression (MIDSA), which is one of the many inventories that will be used in the research presented. Dr. Knight's research interests involve the classification, etiology, and prognosis of psychopathology; risk assessment of sexually coercive males; and the efficacy of bullying interventions in the public-school system. He runs the Sexual Aggression Laboratory at Brandeis University and is committed to supervising and collaborating with the research of his students.

Nicholas Longpré, PhD: Nicholas Longpré is a Lecturer in the Department of Psychology at the University of Roehampton. His research interests principally revolve around sexual and nonsexual violent offending. More specifically, his work focuses on the study of the latent structure and etiology of sexual sadism and sexually coercive behaviours, the Agonistic Continuum, the measurement of offence-supportive cognitions among sexual offenders, as well as the exchange and consumption of child pornography. He is currently studying the latent structure of sexual harassment and sexually coercive behaviours among college students and their correlates with personality disorders, hypersexuality, and emotion processing.