

## **SHAPING THE FUTURE**

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

**F-40**

### **Shaping the Future of Risk Management: Understanding and Assessing Protective Factors**

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Research estimates that a large percentage of individuals assessed with a greater than average risk of sexual reoffending do not go on to repeatedly reoffend. A comprehensive assessment of recidivism risk requires assessment of protective factors as well as risk factors; however, few tools are available to assist clinicians integrate protective factors into their assessments. The Structured Assessment of Protective Factors for violence risk – Sexual Offence version (SAPROF-SO) was developed to fill this void. In this workshop, the presenters will describe the SAPROF-SO and discuss mechanisms hypothesized to increase protection and predict desistance from offending. Preliminary findings from ongoing validation studies will be presented, including inter-rater reliability and construct validity with the Violence Risk Scale: Sexual Offence version (VRS:SO). The workshop will focus on the current clinical utility of the SAPROF-SO with respect to case formulations, treatment planning and risk management, which will be illustrated with a case example.

#### **Learning Goals:**

- Identify promising protective factors against sexual recidivism and overview a structured method for their assessment
- Identify underlying mechanisms thorough which protective factors may operate
- Understand the utility of assessing protective factors in risk assessment, clinical practice and risk management

**Gwenda M. Willis, Ph.D** is a clinical psychologist and researcher from New Zealand; she has worked in clinical and research capacities in New Zealand, Australia and North America. Gwen's research and clinical work focus on strengths-based approaches to working with people who have sexually abused. She has authored/co-authored more than 50 peer-reviewed publications in these areas, including on the application of the contemporary Good Lives Model of rehabilitation. In 2015 Gwen was awarded a 5-year Royal Society Rutherford Discovery Fellowship to research protective factors against

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sexual reoffending. She is the co-author (together with David Thornton, Sharon Kelley & Michiel de Vries Robbé) of the Structured Assessment of Protective Factors for violence risk – Sexual Offence version (SAPROF-SO).

**David Thornton, Ph.D.**, is a psychologist in private practice. He holds a part time position as a professor in the department of clinical psychology at the University of Bergen in Norway. His work involves a mixture of research designed to guide clinical practice, clinical practice which he seeks to base on research, and clinical administration in which he has sought to create the conditions for effective practice. He has developed and managed treatment programs for sexual offenders in both correctional and forensic mental health settings in both the United Kingdom and the United States. He has published on evidence-based standards for effective correctional programs and on the importance of therapist style in sexual offender treatment. He has been involved in the development of static actuarial risk assessment for sexual offenders, contributing to the development of such scales as Static-99, Static-2002, Static-99R, Static-2002R and Risk Matrix 2000. He has been involved in the development of psychological risk assessment, creating the Structured Risk Assessment (SRA) framework and contributing to the development of various implementations of this scheme such as the Structured Assessment of Risk and Need (SARN) and the SRA-Forensic Version (SRA-FV). David Thornton has published three books, 14 chapters in edited books, over 50 papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and 11 Internet publications.

**Sharon Kelley, Psy.D.** is employed as a SVP evaluator with the Sand Ridge Evaluation Unit in Madison, Wisconsin and she is the current President of the Wisconsin Chapter of ATSA. She is licensed to practice psychology in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and California. Both within her practical work and research projects, she is interested in empirically based risk assessments and understanding evaluator decision-making. She is an approved trainer for the SAPROF, an instrument designed to assess protective factors, as well as the VRS-SO, an instrument designed to evaluate the effect of risk reduction due to treatment change.