

## **SHAPING THE FUTURE**

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### **Do ACEs Predict Problems with Emotion Regulation, Interpersonal Functioning, and Problem Solving?**

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Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are well known risk factors for poor physical and mental health outcomes (Felitti & Anda, 1998). **Objective:** The present study will examine the relationship between ACEs and various self-report measures of emotion regulation, interpersonal functioning, and problem solving among provincially incarcerated adult sexual offenders. Participants will complete the ACE questionnaire, along with various measures assessing mood, emotion regulation, mindfulness, loneliness, self-esteem, self-compassion, empathy, attachment, problem solving, beliefs about substance use, and compulsive sexual behaviour. It is hypothesized that cumulative ACEs will be positively associated with difficulties across the various domains of functioning assessed. **Clinical Implications:** This study aims to shed light on the damaging role of childhood adversity in the development of mood regulation, interpersonal effectiveness, and healthy coping. The study findings have the potential to further inform dynamic treatment targets in sexual offending programs.

**Dr. Kate Hamilton** is a clinical and forensic psychologist. She is a graduate of the Clinical Psychology Masters and Doctoral program at the University of Calgary, with a specialized research focus on depression. She has been employed with Alberta Health Services in the department of Forensic Assessment and Outpatient Services (FAOS) since 2003. Her clinical work has primarily focused on forensic risk assessment, and specialized sexual offending treatment. She is currently the Clinical Lead for the Rocky Mountain Program, an inpatient sexual offending program for provincially incarcerated offenders. Dr. Hamilton's research has focused on clinical depression, transdiagnostic group cognitive behavioral therapy, and sexual offending.

**Kristen Lambert** is a clinical social worker employed with Forensic Assessment and Outpatient Services (FAOS) since 2017. She has obtained a Bachelors of Health Science with a specialization in addictions counselling from the University of Lethbridge; a Bachelors of Social Work from the University of Calgary; and a Masters of Social Work specializing in Clinical Social Work from the University of Waterloo. She is currently employed as a Mental Health Therapist for the Rocky Mountain Program and has worked in Addiction and Mental Health since 2012.