

## ***BLENDING VOICES. STRENGTHENING LIVES.***

2020 ATSA Conference | Thursday October 22 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

**TH-AM-05**

### **EMERGING FINDINGS REGARDING SEXUAL INTEREST**

#### **Current Perspectives on the Assessment and Treatment of Compulsive Sexual Behavior Disorder**

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Hypersexuality is defined as a stronger than usual urge to have sexual activity. Researchers and clinicians remain largely divided on whether hypersexuality is a central feature of a distinct diagnostic disorder or whether it simply reflects normative, albeit high, sexual drive. The proposed disorder underscores a number of features, such as non-paraphilic hypersexuality, loss of control over sexual behavior, the use of sex in response to dysphoric mood, and the continuation of sexual behavior despite adverse consequences. Although Hypersexual Disorder was rejected for inclusion in DSM-5, Compulsive Sexual Behavior Disorder was incorporated as an impulse-control disorder in ICD-11. This has important clinical implications as ICD is the most widely used classification system of mental disorders in the world and the diagnostic codes are mandated for use in many countries.

Despite the continued controversy, non-paraphilic hypersexual behavior continues to be an important clinical construct. Indeed, hypersexuality in some form has been embedded in etiological models of sexually aggressive behavior (Knight & Sims-Knight, 2003, 2004, 2011) and it has also 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).

In this presentation, we discuss the overarching construct of hypersexuality and Compulsive Sexual Behavior Disorder, its place in current nosology, as well as specified problems, ranging from global issues about its core theoretical conceptualization to specific issues about the content and structure of the scales used to measure it. New research from two distinct data sets totalling 1,857 respondents will be presented that underscore these aforementioned issues particularly around assessment and measurement. Specifically, latent factor domains of self-report hypersexuality measures were replicated through exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses on these two samples. Hypersexuality total and factor scores as well as total sexual outlet (TSO) predicted indicators of risky sexual behavior (e.g., affairs, paying for sex), proxies or direct indicators of hypersexuality (e.g., cyber sex, phone sex, strip clubs), and consequences of hypersexuality (e.g., STIs, arrests). Implications pertaining to the treatment of individuals presenting with hypersexuality will be discussed which includes the identification of specified treatment targets as well as other pertinent issues related to effective intervention.

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### **Learning Goals**

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to understand the current operational definition of compulsive sexual behavior disorder
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify the current assessment methods and measures appropriate for this construct
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify key treatment concepts and existing best practices to address compulsive sexual behavior disorder

**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.

**Mark E. Olver 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.

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### **Adverse Childhood Experiences and Deviance Among Diverse Sex Offenders**

Alejandro Leguizamo, PhD  
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Sexual deviance, along with antisocial orientation, has been found to be the strongest predictor of sex offense recidivism (e.g., Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005). In addition, adverse childhood events, such as the experience of different types of abuse, also impacts the development of deviant sexual behaviors (Davis & Knight, 2019). However, to date, no studies have explored ethnic differences in sexual deviance among adult sex offenders. Responses from comprehensive intake reports of incarcerated adult male sexual offenders were coded to compare White ( $n = 407$ ), African American ( $n = 110$ ), and Latino ( $n = 139$ ) offenders in terms of adverse childhood experiences (e.g., report of sexual abuse) and correlates of sexual deviance (e.g. reported history of exhibitionism, frotteurism, collected into an additive scale). White subjects reported significantly higher rates of sexual abuse than African Americans and Latinos, but there were no significant differences in the report rates of physical abuse, neglect, or exposure to domestic violence among these groups. While we found that Whites had significantly higher scores in our scale of correlates of sexual deviance than both African Americans and Latinos, this difference disappeared when controlling for a history of sexual abuse, though there was a trend. Lastly, using an intercept analysis using grouping variables, we found that report of sexual abuse and neglect significantly increased mean deviance scores for Whites, but only sexual abuse did so for African Americans and Latinos. Results support previous findings implicating adverse childhood experiences with the development of sexual deviance as well as the importance of exploring ethnic differences with respect to the potential impact unique cultural variables may have in this phenomenon. Implications and suggestions for future research were discussed.

This paper is rated: Adult | General | Research

#### **Learning Goals**

- Upon completion of this educational activity, participants should be able to describe how adverse childhood experiences can contribute to the development of pathological sexual behavior.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, participants should be able to describe rates of paraphilic behaviors based on ethnicity and how they compared with population rates as reported in the DSM-V.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, participants should be able to describe differences in adverse childhood experience and extent of pathological sexuality based on ethnicity.

**Alejandro Leguizamo** has been active in the sex offender field for more than two decades as a researcher, clinician, and evaluator. He is a former Clinical Director of the Sex Offender Treatment Program at the Massachusetts Treatment Center, where he also provided treatment to Spanish-speaking inmates and civilly committed men. He is currently an Associate Professor at Roger

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Williams University in Rhode Island. In addition to his academic work, he conducts evaluations and specialized treatment for the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services. His current research focuses on multicultural factors in sex offending and on predictors of psychological well-being in diverse community samples. Dr. Leguizamo regularly presents at regional and national conferences.

**Samantha Sutton** is currently a master's student in Forensic and Legal Psychology at Roger Williams University. She holds a BA in Psychology from Clark University. Ms. Sutton is particularly interested in online sexual predators who target potential victims through online gaming.