Development and Validation of the Screening Scale of Pedophilic Crime Scene Behavior (SSPC)

Symposium Chair & Discussant: Raymond A. Knight, Ph.D.

Sexual deviance represents the single best predictor for future sexual offending (Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005). To diagnose deviant sexual preferences diagnosticians often have to rely on self-reports of the patients. Given the importance of the diagnosis of a sexual paraphilia, however, patients have an understandable tendency for dissimulation. To overcome this problem researchers have recently suggested using crime scene behavior as a complementary method for diagnosing sexual paraphilia. The symposium will introduce the audience to the Screening Scale of Pedophilic Crime Scene Behavior (SSPC), developed as a way to identify pedophilic interest in child molesters using crime scene information. The symposium will present results linking crime scene data and pedophilic interests in three samples, one from Germany, one from the USA, and one from Canada. The assessment of pedophilia and the importance of crime scene information as a complement for diagnostic procedures will be discussed.

The Development of the Screening Scale of Pedophilic Crime Scene Behavior

Robert J. B. Lehmann, Ph.D.

The purpose of the current study was to investigate the feasibility of identifying pedophilic interest in child molesters using crime scene information. Expert opinions were obtained regarding pedophilic interests in 113 forensic cases of sexual child abuse. The sample comprised 50 pedophilic and 63 non-pedophilic offenders. Based on theoretical and empirical considerations, 24 crime scene variables from 6 content areas were considered. Multivariate analyses revealed that the seven items in the Screening Scale of Pedophilic Crime Scene Behavior (SSPC) showed high predictive accuracy for the diagnosis of pedophilia ($AUC = .91; SE = .03$) and had incremental validity above and beyond the Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interest (SSPI; Seto & Lalumière, 2001).

Goals of the Paper:
1. By the end of the presentation, participants will be familiar the Screening Scale of Pedophilic Crime Scene Behavior (SSPC).
2. By the end of the presentation participants will be familiar with the coding of the items of the SSPC.
3. By the end of the presentation participants will be familiar with the predictive accuracy and incremental validity of the SSPC.

**A Validation of the SSPC in a Sample of US Child Molesters**

Amelie Pedneault, LLB, MSc

The second talk adds to the body of research investigating the link between pedophilic interests in child sexual abusers and a number of crime scene variables. The sample comprised 310 male sexual abusers against children who were evaluated at the Massachusetts Treatment Center for Sexually Dangerous Persons between 1959 and 1991. Because no specific pedophilia diagnosis was available for the sample, offenders with “high fixation/low social competence” according to the MTC-CM4 (Knight & King, 2012) were considered to have pedophilic interests. Results will be presented, linking the SSPC crime scene variables to the “high fixation/low social competence” taxon. In addition, the relation of the MTC-CM4 typology to pedophilia will be discussed.

Goals of the Paper:
1. Introducing methodological aspects of the replication study.
2. Presenting replication findings about SSPC crime scene variables and the MTC-CM4 “high fixation/low social competence” taxon.
3. Discussing the MTC-CM4 typology in relation to pedophilia.

**A Re-Validation of the Screening Scale of Pedophilic Crime Scene Behavior in a Canadian Sample: The Contribution of Phallometric Data**

Sébastien Brouillette-Alarie, Ph.D. Candidate
Nicholas Longpré, Ph.D. Candidate
Jean Proulx, Ph.D.

The third talk will cover a re-validation of the SSPC in a sample of 406 federally sentenced child molesters, evaluated between 1995 and 2000 at the Regional Reception Center of Canada. Crime scene data were linked to sexual interests in children, either defined by expert diagnoses of pedophilia or phallometric deviance indices. Preliminary results revealed that the number of prepubescent victims, the number of sexual offences against prepubescent victims, and the use of confidence/noncoercive approaches were related to expert diagnoses of pedophilia. Of these variables, only the number of prepubescent victims and the number of sexual offences against prepubescent victims were related to pedophilic phallometric indices. Anal penetration during the index offence was not related to any of the outcomes. Finally, logistic regression was
performed to see if pedophilic phallometric indices incrementally contributed to the prediction of pedophilia diagnoses beyond SSPC items. Results clearly indicated that they did not. SSPC items alone explained 54.8% of the variance of the outcome, and adding phallometric indices “increased” that percentage to 55.0, which was not significant. The clinical and theoretical implications of our results will be discussed.

Goals of the Paper:

1. Introduce the Canadian Regional Reception Center sample.
2. Present replications findings with said sample.
3. Discuss the contributions of phallometric data.

References

