Life-Context Scripts in Sexual Aggressors of Women

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Many theories have offered different explanations of the pathways to sexual aggression. For instance, the Self-Regulation Model suggests that the offending process involves nine phases associated with specific risk factors, such as negative emotional states, deviant sexual fantasies, and victim access (Ward & Hudson, 1998; Proulx, Beauregard, Lussier & Leclerc, 2014). Script theories focus on decision making during the offending process leading to a sequence of choices and actions, known as crime-script (Proulx & Beauregard, 2009). However, these models focus on precipitating factors occurring in the forty-eight hours preceding the offence at the expanse of predisposing factors and the offender's life context. Consequently, the aim of this study is to investigate life-context scripts in sexual aggressors of women.

Thirty-seven convicted sex offenders who participated in a relapse prevention group at Philippe-Pinel Institute are included in this study. Information regarding life events, cognitions, emotions, fantasies, behaviors, and consequences in the years and hours preceding the sexual offence were gathered. Between five and eighteen behavioral chains were collected for each participant. Our results indicate prototypical patterns in the pre-crime life context. Some offenders are stable in their negative view of themselves and others, and are invaded by deviant sexual fantasies. Others switch from a negative view of themselves to a negative view of others associated with the emergence of violent and sexual deviant fantasies. A last group of offenders are characterized by disinhibited sexual behaviors and frequent use of alcohol and/or drugs. Theoretical and clinical implications will be discussed.

Goals of the Poster Presentation:
1. Identify patterns in the evolution of behavioral chains taking place in the years and hours preceding the sexual offense.
2. Provide better understanding of the impact of life-context factors on pathways to sexual aggression.
3. Determine clinical implications of the different profiles among aggressors of women in the identification of high-risk situations and prevention.
References
