UNDER THE RADAR: PEDOPHILIA DIAGNOSIS AND RISK ASSESSMENT OUTSIDE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Diagnostic Process of Paedophilia in the “Dark Field” Project in Germany

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The Prevention Project Dunkelfeld (PPD) in Germany is aimed at preventing child sexual abuse by targeting men who fear to sexually abuse a child and who seek therapeutic help concerning this matter. A standard diagnostic process is applied in all 12 locations of the “Dark field” network. This process consists of a half structured clinical interview and questionnaires measuring the personal experiences and behaviors of the patient as well as additional static and dynamic risk factors. The diagnostic proceedings of the “Dark field” project will be presented and trained in this workshop in terms of their application within the Risk-Need-Responsivity model. This workshop will be relevant for therapists working with child sexual abusers and child pornography offenders.

Learning Goals and Objectives:
• providing practical information regarding our work in clinical diagnostics at the “Dark field” project in Germany
• providing skills for the diagnosing of paedophilia/hebephilia based on the self-reported sexual history of the patient
• providing skills for diagnosing dynamic risk factors which play an important role in the further therapeutic process
• identifying difficulties within the diagnostic process and strategies to manage these problems
Static Risk Factors for Child Sexual Offending in Undetected Pedohebephiles

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**Background:** A recent meta-analysis comparing the characteristics of child pornography only (CP only) offenders, child sexual abuse only (CSA only) offenders only and mixed offenders revealed key differences between groups, especially on variables reflecting static/historic risk factors like former criminal history, social background, mental illnesses, sexual preference and sexual history, as well as developmental factors. In addition, data reveal that mixed offenders were a particularly high risk group. Included studies on risk factors for child sexual offending have predominantly relied on samples of detected or incarcerated sex offenders. Therefore the generalizability of previous study results on child sexual offenders not known to the criminal justice system (i.e., undetected offenders) remains questionable. Moreover, not all included offenders meet formal diagnostic criteria for pedophilia or hebephilia, which may lead to further confounding. In addition, the characteristics of individuals who yet have not sexually offended against children, but identify themselves at the precipice of offending are unknown.

**Aim:** The present study aims at examining the generalizability of static risk factors previously identified in samples of detected child sexual offenders to undetected pedo- and/or hebephilic child sexual offenders from the community. By additionally comparing undetected offenders to non-offenders more insights of static risk factors will be provided.

**Study:** Participants were recruited within the ”Prevention Project Dunkelfeld”. Within a sample of $N = 242$ participants, who completed the standard intake assessment between 2005 and 2014, protocols of the clinical interview were retrospectively evaluated. 39 (16.1%) non-offenders, 128 (52.9%) CP only, 29 (12%) CSA only and 46 (19%) mixed offenders were compared on following variables: (1) former criminal history (e.g., detected non-/violent offenses and non-/contact sexual offenses), (2) sexual preference and history (e.g., exclusivity, of sexual body age preference, gender preference, first sexual experiences, number of sexual partners and relationships), (3) developmental factors (e.g., emotional, sexual or physical abuse), (4) social background (employment, relationship, children, education, age), as well as (5) mental illnesses (e.g., mood/anxiety/personality disorders, ADHD, substance abuse problems). Further, CP offenders were compared on offense specific variables.

**Results:** Although not significant, mixed offenders tend to be more often previously detected for non- and contact sexual offenses (except CSA), as well as non-violent offenses. According to their sexual history, mixed offenders show a greater sexual inclination as they report an earlier onset of masturbation and an earlier first consensual sexual intercourse. Non-offenders reported the least number of sexual partners. Considering the sexual...
preference for the gender, CP only offenders more often indicated to be heterosexual and mixed offenders to be homosexual. They also more often indicated physical abuse and tendentially more emotional abuse in childhood. When it comes to sexual behavior with children not covered by defined child sexual abuse offenses, mixed offenders are at the highest risk. Offender groups differed by their relationship- and employment-status, as well as their age but could not be distinguished by their psychopathology. Nonetheless, non-offenders reported to have more often called upon psychotherapies. Concerning characteristics of their CP offending, mixed offenders more often produced images of children for sexual purposes and more often use images of known children for masturbation. Finally, the resulting significant factors were implemented in a multinomial logistic regression model as main effects adjusting to each other in order to analyze their association with lifetime offending behavior.

Discussion: In contrast to previous research within detected offender samples undetected CP only, CSA only and mixed offenders from the community presented themselves as more alike than assumed. Static risk factors rather distinguished mixed and non-CP offenders (non- and CSA only offender). Clinical implications for diagnostic, risk assessment and treatment of undetected (potential) child sexual offenders will be discussed.

Learning Goals and Objectives:

- Discussion of the generalizability of static risk factors for detected child sexual offenses to undetected offender samples.
- Presentation of individual static risk factors that are associated with child pornography and child sexual abuse offending in pedophiles and hebephiles from the community.
- Introduction of a model of child sexual offending comprising the significant factors and thereby discussion of risk factors that are of particular importance.
- Presentation of individual static risk factors that are associated with child pornography and child sexual abuse offending in pedophiles and hebephiles from the community.
- Provide a deeper understanding of differences and similarities in child pornography offenders (CP only and mixed) according to specific characteristics of their CP offenses.
- Characterization of non-offending pedophiles and hebephiles in contrast to those who sexually offend against children (CP only, CSA only, mixed).