

Using psychopathy to identify differences between variants of adolescent sex offenders

Ricardo Barroso¹, Patricia Figueiredo² & Kostas Fanti³

¹*University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, Portugal*

²*University of Porto, Portugal*

³*University of Cyprus, Cyprus*

rbarroso@utad.pt

INTRODUCTION: Psychopathy is a construct used to describe individuals who show problematic behavioural patterns and negative personality traits. Very few studies have attempted to explore the link between psychopathy and different subtypes of adolescent sexual offenders, which is an aim of the current study.

METHODS: Participants consisted of 270 juvenile offenders convicted for sexual offenses (n= 141) and non-sexual offenses (n= 129) who were tested with the Psychopathy Checklist: Youth Version (PCL: YV).

RESULTS/CONCLUSIONS: Results indicate that adolescent nonsexual offenders (ANSO) tend to have a higher prevalence of psychopathic traits when compared to adolescent sexual offenders (ASO). Regarding the differentiation between child sex offenders and peer/adult offenders, the results do not indicate significant differences, suggesting, however, that peer/adult offenders tend to have a higher prevalence of high scores of psychopathic traits. Potential implications concerning psychopathy assessment in clinical and forensic contexts are also discussed.

A new approach to treating sexual fantasies? Using bilateral eyemovements to impair the experience of sexual fantasies

Ross M. Bartels & Nikki Beard

University of Lincoln, Lincoln, UK

rbartels@lincoln.ac.uk

Bilateral eye-movements (EMs) and visual mental imagery both require working memory resources. When performed together, they compete for these resources, causing the mental imagery to become impaired (e.g., less vivid). This study used EMs with sexual mental imagery (i.e., sexual fantasies) to determine if the imagery would become impaired in the same manner. A sample of 80 student participants (40 males, 40 females) completed four counterbalanced conditions: (1) EMs with an experience-based sexual fantasy; (2) EMs with an imagination-based sexual fantasy; (3) experience-based sexual fantasy only; and (4) imagination-based sexual fantasy only. The vividness, arousability, and evaluation of the sexual fantasy were rated pre- and post-task in each condition. The results showed that sexual fantasies were reported as less vivid, positive, and arousing after performing concurrent EMs, relative to fantasising only. There were no gender differences influencing this effect. We also report promising preliminary results of a follow-up study focused solely on negative sexual fantasies. Not only do these findings collectively extend the literature on EM effects, they also offer implications for practitioners who work with clients that have difficulties with using sexual fantasies. Future research should focus on validating and extending these results.

Exploring the factor structure of Gray et al.'s (2003) Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire

Ross M. Bartels¹ & Craig A. Harper²

¹*School of Psychology, University of Lincoln, Lincoln, UK*

²*Department of Psychology, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, UK*

rbartels@lincoln.ac.uk

The accurate measurement of sexual fantasy is important for valid scientific study, as well as the examination of sexual thinking in forensic contexts. There are a number of self-report measures of sexual fantasy, yet they are either associated with high financial cost for researchers, outdated terminology, or ethical problems arising from overtly explicit items. One measure that does not suffer from these issues is Gray et al.'s (2003) Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire (SFQ). While the SFQ is becoming increasingly used by researchers, it has yet to be thoroughly validated. Thus, in this research, we combined data from a number of large survey-based samples ($N = 594$) to examine the factor structure underpinning the SFQ. After conducting parallel and principal components analyses, a six factor structure was settled upon. In this structure, the SFQ was condensed into a 62-item measure related to fantasies of: masochism, sadism, romance, impersonal, dysfunctional courtship, and bodily functions. We also developed a 38-item short-form SFQ that can be used when there are time or space constraints. This short-form makes reference to all of the full scale factors, and correlates highly with the full scale. We discuss the use of the revised SFQ in research and clinical contexts.

Validation of the original method measuring coping using sex in prisoners

Dominika Bartoszak

Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland

dominika.bartoszak@amu.edu.pl

Objectives: The goal of this study was to examine the psychometric properties of the Coping Using Sex Scale (Bartoszak, 2018) in Poland. The CUSS is a 10-item instrument designed to measure the construct of coping using sex in reference to different emotional states. It consists of 4 subscales that assess: (a) anger, (b) sadness, (c) anxiety, (d) shame and (e) happiness.

Material and methods: The participants were 57 male prisoners aged 20-63 years. According to Velten technique of emotion induction, the questionnaire included 10 descriptions of situations which evoke listed emotions. After each description, the participant indicated what emotion was evoked, what was the intensity of the emotion and how probable it is that the male will engage in sexual activity (such as intercourse, masturbation, sexual fantasies, pornography).

Results: Kaiser–Meyer Olkin measure of sampling adequacy was .88, and Bartlett’s test of sphericity, was significant at 561.514, df 45, $p < .001$. The factor analysis identified a new factor solution with two dimensions – Coping Using Sex Under Negative Affect (loadings ranging from .93 to .66) and Coping Using Sex Under Positive Affect (ranging from .91 to .81). Overall internal reliability was high – Cronbach’s alpha = 0.95.

Conclusions: It was found that the Coping Using Sex Scale has satisfactory psychometric properties. The scale has potential utility in the context of the criminal justice system.

Challenges and debates in risk assessment: Moving the field forward or not?

Anthony R. Beech

University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK

a.r.beech@bham.ac.uk

The aim of the workshop is to highlight some of the recent debates and issues in risk assessment. Here, the focus of the session will be on three main areas: actuarial assessments, the status and problems in the measurement of dynamic risk factors, and the role of protective factors.

Hence, the aim of the workshop is to challenge and engender debate around these important areas of work, as well as noting the relative absence of current theorizing in the area.

Risk factors for sexual offending indicating innovative approaches to treatment

Anthony R. Beech

University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK

a.r.beech@bham.ac.uk

The brain is organized and sculpted by a life-time of experiences, these being especially important pre/peri-natally, and in infancy and adolescence. Evidence would suggest that early adverse experiences, in an interaction with genetic and biological factors, can adversely affect brain development. The ensuing atypical morphological organization could result in social withdrawal, pathological shyness, explosive and inappropriate emotionality, and an inability to form normal emotional attachments and this sets the scene for later criminality, including sexual offending. Evidence for this is that a number of pre/peri/postnatal risk factors have been identified in offenders. It is argued in the talk that understanding how these risk factors affect the brain is the first step in being able to ameliorate such risk factors, by the use of appropriate brain-based interventions.

Exploring barriers to prevention: When therapeutic confidentiality cannot be guaranteed

Sarah M. Beggs Christofferson

University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

sarah.christofferson@canterbury.ac.nz

Many jurisdictions take a recidivism reduction approach in addressing child sexual abuse. However, this neglects the prevention of first-time offences, which account for the majority of prosecutions each year. A further concern is individuals with pedophilic interest having no outlet to seek help until acting on it, undoubtedly causing great harm. Germany's Prevention Project Dunkelfeld (PPD) demonstrates an alternative approach, offering treatment to self-referring pedophiles with confidentiality guaranteed. In jurisdictions where such guarantees are not possible, however, fear of criminalization and potential repercussions pose a barrier to would-be help-seekers, undercutting the potential for prevention. This study undertook a survey of n=111 health practitioners in a jurisdiction where risk-related confidentiality breaches are *not mandated*, but are *permitted*, under a complex array of legislation (New Zealand). Hypothesized uncertainty regarding ethico-legal duties when clients disclose pedophilic interest was supported, with nearly three-quarters of respondents endorsing the (false) belief that NZ law mandates reporting. Hypothesized bias towards breaching confidentiality when permitted was not borne out, however discretionary thresholds varied widely between practitioners, highlighting a clear barrier for potential help-seekers. Overall, findings point to specific practitioner training needs, as well as a readiness among practitioners to have these issues clarified in support of preventative efforts.

A study of a new psychiatric/psychological unit working with the Roman Catholic Church in France following the revelation of a number of cases of pedophilia and sexual aggression

Wayne Bodkin, Mathieu Lacambre, Céline Baïs, Magali Teillard-Dirat, Stéphane Bonnet, Cyril Manzanera, Cindy Prudhomme & Philippe Courtet

CRIAVS-LR, Emergency and post-emergency psychiatric unit, University Hospital Montpellier, France

bodkin.wayne@gmail.com

The authors will present the results of findings in this two-year study with perspectives and results of an official collaboration between a specialized unit for sexual aggressors and victims (CRIAVS-LR), that is part of the French public hospital university system (CHU) and the Catholic Church in France (CEAVE). The first convention was signed in Montpellier in May 2016 with the Diocese of Montpellier. A unit was set up at the hospital to listen to victims and aggressors and accompany them (victims, parents, family, clergy, religious and lay people). The impact of major psycho-trauma will be discussed as well as other surprising results regarding both victims, aggressors, and families and the Church.