

**Tracking the Antecedents and Predictors of Rape:  
Abuse, Hypersexuality, Callousness, Antisociality, and PCD**

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

The constructs of hypersexuality, impulsivity/antisociality, and callousness/unemotionality have repeatedly emerged as core traits both in developmental models of the etiology of rape (e.g., Knight & Sims-Knight, 2003, 2004; Lussier, LeClerc, Cale, & Proulx, 2007; Malamuth, 2003) and in the prediction of recidivism among rapists (e.g., Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005; Knight & Thornton, 2007). Although there is consensus about the overall importance of these core traits for sexually coercive behavior across the lifespan, there is considerably less agreement about what is the best way to operationalize and measure each of these dimensions, about what is the best model to represent their cross-temporal covariation, and about how to integrate them with the newly defined agonistic dimension that provides a linear integration of paraphilic coercion and sadism. Still more problematic is the mapping of various components of early developmental experiences onto these dimensions. Issues of the unique contributions of various antecedents as well as the cumulative effects of different types of abuse still remain unresolved (Knight & Daversa, 2005; Borland, Sims-Knight, & Knight, 2010). The purpose of the present symposium is to address both of these issues in multiple adult sexual offender samples and to discuss the relevance of the findings to treatment, management, and prediction.

The first talk focuses on the measurement and interrelation of these three core traits and the newly developed Agonistic Dimension (Knight, Sims-Knight, & Guay, 2013). Using both self-report data from the Multidimensional Inventory of Development, Sex, and Aggression (the MIDSA; MIDSA, 2011) and archival ratings of the Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (Hare, 2003), the presentation argues that Callous-Manipulative and Hypersexuality may best be considered a single trait and their shared variance might suggest a common underlying neural circuitry. Both this Callous/Hypersexuality combined trait and Antisociality contribute equally to Agonistic Tendencies, which in turn covaries substantially with sexually coercive behavior toward women.

The second talk will examine both the individual contributions of components of sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, and experiencing vicarious violence and the cumulative effects of such abuse to the various intermediate traits and ultimately to sexually coercive behavior toward women. The importance of the findings to treatment, disposition, management, and prediction of recidivism will be discussed.

## **Exploring the Relations among Hypersexuality, Callousness, Antisociality, and Agonistic Tendencies in Rape**

Raymond A. Knight, Ph.D.

The proposed talk explores the nature of the relation among Hypersexuality, Callousness, Antisociality, and Agonistic Tendencies, examining the covariation among self-report scales and latent traits as measured by the MIDSA and by archival file ratings of the facets of the PCL-R (as alternative measures of callousness and antisociality). Data for the analyses in this presentation were derived from two offender samples: (a) an incarcerated sample of 397 adult sex offenders from Minnesota and Massachusetts, whose archival records were rated on the PCL-R facets (Hare, 2003), and who were administered the MIDSA, and (b) a second sample of 220 sex offenders from Wisconsin and Maine, who were administered the MIDSA.

Across the two independent samples consistent covariations among the various components emerged as measured both by the MIDSA and the facets of the PCL-R. We argue that the MIDSA Callousness latent trait corresponds closely to the Self-Centered Impulsivity (SCI) Factor of the Psychopathic Personality Inventory (PPI: Lilienfeld & Andrews, 1996), and both the MIDSA Callousness trait and the SCI correlate with the PCL-R Factor 1, the Interpersonal/Affective factor (Lynam & Miller, 2012; MIDSA, 2011). In the present samples correlation between the MIDSA Callousness trait and the latent Hypersexuality trait were sufficiently high that the Structural Equations Models (SEMs) were improved when these two were combined into single overarching latent trait, Callous Hypersexuality. Both this new combined trait and the Antisocial latent trait contributed equal variance in predicting Agonist Fantasy, which in turn was found to predict Sexually Coercive Behavior against women.

Recent research has suggested potential links between the PPI SCI factor to neurochemical and neurophysiological hyper-reactivity of the dopaminergic reward system (Buckholtz et al., 2010), and other results that have supported the hyperreactivity of the same dopaminergic neurocircuitry for sexual excitation and anticipatory sexual motivation (Bancroft, 2009; Stoleru, Fontelle, Cornelis, Joyal, & Moulrier, 2012). These data suggest a potential overlapping neural substrate that might help explain the consistent covariations found between both SCI (and its analogue, the MIDSA Callousness trait) and PCL-R Facet 1 with Hypersexuality. This overarching trait and its hypothetical neural substrate suggest a kind of “impulsivity” that is reward focused, that does not pay adequate attention to negative consequences, that is Machiavellian and unresponsive to distress of its victims, that does not take others’ perspectives into account, and that covaries with hypersexuality. In contrast, the MIDSA Antisocial trait captures another aspect of “impulsivity,” the behavioral disinhibition of externalizing behavior that covaries with deficiencies in executive cognitive processes and prefrontal cortex inhibitory deficits (Rogers, 2006). Both the Callous/Hypersexual trait and the Antisociality trait combine to predict Agonistic Tendencies, a trait that combines paraphilic coercion and aspects of sadism. Both forms of “impulsivity” would require very different treatment and management interventions.

## Mapping Developmental Antecedents onto the Components of Rape: Specific and Cumulative Effects

Judith Sims-Knight, Ph.D.

Although there is wide agreement that childhood abuse increases the risk for later problems, including aggressive and sexually aggressive behaviors, the relative roles of various kinds of abuse is unclear. For example, Jespersen, Lalumiere, and Seto (2009) found that adult sex offenders were more likely to have suffered sexual abuse than were nonoffenders. This evidence is consistent with the common-sense notion that sexual abuse is an important determinant of sex offending. Nonetheless, Knight and Sims-Knight (2003, 2004, 2011) found that sexual abuse operates only indirectly, through physical and emotional abuse.

Recent evidence suggests that the cumulative burden of risk factors is a better predictor of future problems than specific kinds of trauma (Begle, Dumas, & Hanson, 2010; Teicher, Samson, Polcari, & McGreenery, 2006). Analyses of the self-reports from the MIDSA of the sample of 220 sex offenders from Wisconsin and Maine provides support for the cumulative abuse hypothesis.

An alternative explanation for the relatively minor role of sexual abuse in predicting both the intermediate traits and sexual coercion may be that sexual abuse plays a role only in certain circumstances. The MIDSA provides a detailed picture of both who committed the abuse, how the respondent perceived his motivation (whether he was coerced or manipulated or willing), and what happened in the relationship. The talk will include a detailed description of the kinds of early sexual contact described by incarcerated sexual offenders and how these various situations might be more or less potentially dangerous. Particular combinations of past experiences and current characteristics that are associated with particularly high risk of sexual coercion will be highlighted.

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