

## POSTER

### **Does the Pedophilia-Hebephilia-Teleiphilia Continuum Exist?**

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Hebephilia, the sexual preference for pubescent children (Blanchard et al., 2009), has been the focus of many discussions since its potential inclusion in the DSM-V. However, the data on this topic is sparse and inconsistent (DeClue, 2009; Frances & First, 2011; Franklin, 2010; Green, 2010; Janssen, 2009; Kramer, 2011; Moser, 2009; Prentky & Barbaree, 2011; Tromovitch, 2009; Zander, 2009). What data there is points to the existence of a continuum, with sexual aggressors of adolescents generally exhibiting more physical and psychosocial deficits than teleiophiles (sexual preference for adults), but fewer than sexual aggressors of children (Cantor et al., 2004; 2006; 2007; 2008; Cantor & Blanchard, 2012; Kalichman, 1992).

The objective of the present study is to validate the above hypothesis, by verifying whether hebephiles do indeed fit in the middle of a pedophilia-hebephilia-teleiphilia continuum. Psychometric-test results, risk-assessment scores, as well as psychophysiological and socio-demographic characteristics were analysed. The sample for this study consisted of 454 sex offenders from a Canadian federal penitentiary, all of whom had one exclusive type of victim.

Preliminary results indicate that the teleiophilic sex offenders seem to exhibit more drug and alcohol use related problems than, in decreasing order of importance, heterosexual hebephiles and heterosexual pedophiles. The same layout is observed when analysing Static-99 and Static-2002 scores, antisocial and risky behaviour (e.g., indiscipline in school, repeated lies during adolescence and dangerous behaviour during adolescence and adulthood) and sexually related items (e.g., viewing of pornography during adolescence, use of prostitute services during adulthood, sexual satisfaction). No other relationship was found between the type of sex offender and the physical and psychosocial characteristics identified in the literature (e.g., height, achieved level of education, psychometric-tests scores, childhood sexual victimization). The hypothesis for the existence of a pedophilia-hebephilia-teleiphilia physical and psychosocial deficits continuum is therefore not corroborated. However, this research has yielded some interesting data on antisocial/risky traits and behaviour (including drug and alcohol use) which will be subjected to subsequent analyzes. The clinical and theoretical implications of this research will be discussed.