

## POSTER

### **Sexual Murderers: A Systematic Review**

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Sexual murderers are the object of attention by both the media and the scientific community (Chan & Heide, 2009). Scientific studies of sexual murderers have often used samples of serial offenders (Ressler et al., 1988) and sometimes focus on specific traits, such as sexual sadism (Healey, Lussier & Beauregard, 2012), psychopathy (Porter et al., 2003) and neurological abnormalities (Briken et al., 2006). However, empirical studies remain the exception, samples are often biased, and many characteristics remain unexplored.

The goal of this systematic review is to identify the main characteristics of sexual murderers and the areas in which further research is warranted. It analyzes detailed data on 1624 sexual murderers (1499 non-serial and 125 serial) taken from 52 empirical descriptive studies carried out between 1985 and 2013. Sample size in these studies varied from 13 (Langevin, 1988) to 250 (Beauregard & Martineau, 2012).

In order to better characterize non-serial sexual murderers and serial sexual murderers, five categories of variables were established: developmental variables (e.g. victimization experiences, animal cruelty, social isolation, compulsive masturbation, education, family environment); adult life and criminal career variables (e.g. low self-esteem, criminal record, collection of pornography, characteristics of sexual relations, social and occupational activities); psychopathological variables (e.g. sexual sadism, psychopathy, personality disorders, paraphilias, deviant sexual fantasies); crime-scene variables (e.g. humiliation of victim, post-crime affect, dismemberment of the corpse, knowledge of criminal forensics; methods of execution); victimology variables (e.g. relationship to victim, lifestyle of victim). The systematic review revealed the consistency of the reported results and allowed identification of general trends in sexual murderers. More specifically, preliminary results indicate the existence of a dichotomy between non-serial and serial sexual murderers (e.g. daydreaming: 30% vs. 82%; social isolation: 49% vs. 73%; rape fantasies: 9% vs. 61%; planning of murder: 19% vs. 87%; stranger victim: 47% vs. 82%).

Finally, the systematic review is intended to identify variables that have not been extensively studied, particularly those related to neuropsychology (e.g. genetic and endocrine abnormalities) and the geospatial and spatio-temporal characteristics of the crime (e.g. distance between the victim-meeting point and the murderer's home). Forensic and theoretical implication will be discussed.