## Pedophilic and Hebephilic Sexual Interests in Self-Reports

Symposium Chair: Till Amelung, M.D.

Sexual interest in prepubescent or pubescent children (i.e. pedophilia or hebephilia) constitutes a major risk factor for initial or repetitive sexual offending against children, in terms of child sexual abuse offenses or for the use of child abusive images. A considerable body of literature exists on problems with diagnosing pedophilia and associated behavioral manifestations. While in a forensic context, objective measures such as physiological markers for sexual interest and official reports on criminal behaviors must be viewed as gold standard, various studies have pointed out diverging results from self-report data concerning both sexual interest in children and sexual behaviors involving children. Concerning sexual interests, self-reports indicate that sexual fantasies involving minors occur in non-clinical samples (e.g., Ahlers et al., 2010), while their role in the development of child abusive behaviors has been discussed (e.g., Leitenberg & Henning, 1995). Concerning sexual behaviors, in samples of both convicted sex offenders and men from the community, self-report has repeatedly revealed large numbers of non-reported criminal behaviors (e. g. Abel et al., 1987; Ahlers et al., 2010; Bourke & Hernandez, 2009).

With the emergence of the German Dunkelfeld approach, an integration of community-based data and the clinical forensic perspective has become available. The Prevention Project Dunkelfeld (PPD) provides preventive therapy for self-identified help-seeking pedophiles and hebephiles in the community, who are currently undetected by the criminal justice system, in order to prevent initial or future sexual offending (Beier et al., 2009). Providing confidentiality and offering professional help, the PPD offers self-report data that may prove more reliable than in a judicial context. However, the degree of transferability between both areas of research remains to be examined to establish the possible additive value of research data from the PPD. The symposium will try to provide data that will help to close this gap by applying forensic sexological approaches to self-report data from the Dunkelfeld.

Three talks within this symposium will shed light on diagnostic issues and opportunities arising from the assessment of sexual interest via self-report. The first two talks allocate self-reported sexual interests within the field of research on sexual interest in general. The first talk adds the Dunkelfeld perspective to recent discussions on dimensionality of the paraphilias, specifically pedophilia and hebephilia. The second presentation examines the transferability of models of penile responding to alloerotic stimuli on self-reported sexual age preference. The third talk explores the possibilities self-reported data yield for the assessment of characteristics of sexual interests and criminal behaviors.

# The Latent Structure of Sexual Body Age Preference

Franz Henkel, M.Sc.

Despite important implications, e.g. the question of dichotomous versus gradual diagnosis of pedophilia/hebephilia, the latent structure of sexual body age preference has only recently come into focus.

*Aims*: The present study aims at analyzing whether pedophilia and hebephilia mark an extreme on a continuum of sexual preference or constitute a quality thereof. To date, Mackaronis, Strassberg, and Marcus (2011) have conducted the only study addressing this question. However, they used data from a forensic sample and based their study on a definition of pedophilia being the strongest preference and they did not account for hebephilic interest.

*Study*: In this study, a taxometric analysis was conducted with Dunkelfeld data of pedophiles, hebephiles, and teleiophiles ($n > 300$). The data consisted of self-reported proportions of the sexual preference for the prepubescent, pubescent, and/or adult body age in three categories (masturbation fantasies, sexual contacts, and sexually arousing visual depictions) and was assessed via a questionnaire developed and applied in the PPD, the *Sexual Preference Manikin* (SPM). Diagnosing sexual body age preference and the concomitant uncertainty concerning diagnostic thresholds resulted in the systematic variation of assumed proportions of pedophiles and hebephiles in the sample.
*Results*: Results indicated dimensionality for most assumed proportions of pedophiles/hebephiles, whereas none indicated categoriality. This finding corresponds with that of Mackaronis and colleagues. Sexual contacts proved insufficient as an indicator for a taxometric analysis and were removed.
Implications of the results for assessing and diagnosing sexual preference, and future research, as well as limitations of the study will be discussed.

# Modeling Sexual Response to Body Age with Self-report Data

Till Amelung, M.D.

*Background*: Blanchard et al. (2010) compared two models of penile responding to phallometric stimuli differentiating body age. They proposed two approaches to modeling the distribution of body age. One was termed "morphological" approach where the stimulus' body age was allocated on a bipolar dimension ranging from mature females over pubescent and prepubescent females, prepubescent and pubescent males to mature males. The other approach, termed "summation model", took into account both gender and age differences. In their study they conclude, that penile response to body age can be best modeled as a function of "morphological distance" of the presented stimulus from the category producing the greatest penile response. Such model, in their view, may imply that male sexual responding depends on the gestalt of the preferred partner under laboratory conditions. However, as

Leitenberg and Henning (1995) pointed out, penile response to laboratory stimuli might not coincide with self-assigned sexual needs and desires. Here, sexual fantasy might provide a better insight.

*The present study*: For the present study, Blanchard et al.'s models were reconstructed using self-reported frequencies of sexual fantasies of n=138 participants of the PPD. Measures of goodness of fit were compared to identify the most appropriate model. Explorative analyses were conducted on residuals and model discordant patterns of self-reported sexual responding.

*Results*: Self-reported occurrence of sexual fantasies involving minors followed distributions over age categories that resembled the distribution of penile response in phallometry. Contrasting the results of Blanchard et al.'s study, models involving age and gender differences, termed "summation models", proved to fit the self-report data better than the a model of morphological distance. Specifically, a summation model emphasizing the gender gap yielded the best fit. Model fit was distributed differentially for diagnostic groups with deviations from the predicted values concerning self-reported sexual interest in hetero-teleiophile body age.

The results of the model replication will be discussed in terms of relevance for clinical diagnostic and future research.

## Characteristics of Self-reported Pedophilic and Hebephilic Sexual Interests and Exploration of Lifetime Sexual Offending

Dorit Grundmann, M.Sc.

*Background*: Seto (2012) made an attempt to conceptualize pedophilia as a sexual age orientation, thereby implying a sexological connotation regarding pedophilia, in contrast to a mere forensic perspective of the topic. Limiting the discussion about "sexual preference" to detected and convicted child sexual abuse offenders makes it difficult to provide a better understanding of the clinical phenomenon and its implications for treatment opportunities and child protection efforts. A previous study made an attempt to investigate the proposed criteria of "sexual orientation" in a sample of self-identified pedophiles and hebephiles from the community (Grundmann, et al., 2012). On average, individuals reported a pubertal onset of sexual interests, a high lifetime-risk of predominantly undetected child sexual abuse offending and/or the use of child abusive images, and a high stability of their sexual interests. However, it needs to be specified how an individual's "time-at-risk" - in terms of onset of sexual attraction to prepubescent and/or pubescent children - characterizes the quantity and quality of his detected or undetected sexual behaviors towards children. In particular, to enlighten the phenomenon of "crossing-over", samples of mixed offenders can help to understand "what was first" and what does it imply on risk assessment and treatment needs?

*Aim*: The present study aims to characterize pedophilia and hebephilia as a clinical phenomenon in terms of the onset and stability of sexual interests and associated behavioral manifestations, which is investigated in a set of explorative descriptive analyses. Further, the study aims to provide a better

understanding of the sexologically and forensically relevant aspects of sexual interests in children, with a focus on the criminal careers of mixed sexual offenders against children.

*Study*: Participants were recruited within the Berlin PPD. Within a sample of $N$=462 project participants, who completed the standard intake assessment between 2005 and 2012, self-report data were collected on sexually arousing masturbation fantasies regarding prepubescent and/or pubescent children, socio-demographic data, and psychological meaningful risk factors. To refine previous results, in a first step, age of onset of sexual interests, correlations with sexual behaviors, and stability over time were investigated in men, who reported a sexual interest in prepubescent ($n$=263, 56.9%) and/or pubescent children ($n$=369, 79.9%), respectively. In a second step, qualitative interview data of mixed offenders were analyzed to determine: individual's time at risk, onset, characteristics and course of child sexual abuse offending, onset and course of the use of child abusive images, and to identify possible patterns of behavioral manifestations of sexual interests that might be associated with psychologically meaningful risk factors.

Results of quantitative and qualitative analyses on stability of sexual interests and respective behavioral manifestations will be discussed, in terms of implications for risk management and treatment efforts, as well as the transferability to detected offenders.