

Applying Attachment Theory to the Treatment of Sexually Abusive Youth

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The workshop is for those already familiar and comfortable with attachment theory, and describes hypothesized links between attachment patterns and the relationship between attachment, social connection, and the development of sexually abusive behavior, with a focus on case studies and discussion. The workshop will review the research that examines and hypothesizes links between attachment difficulties and patterns to adult and juvenile sexual offending, and discuss the possible connection between attachment difficulties and the later development of sexually abusive behavior in adolescents. We will consider the relationship between attachment, the development of intimacy and empathy, and the internalization of social mores and the development of morality, and consider implications for the treatment of sexually abusive behavior in children and adolescents.