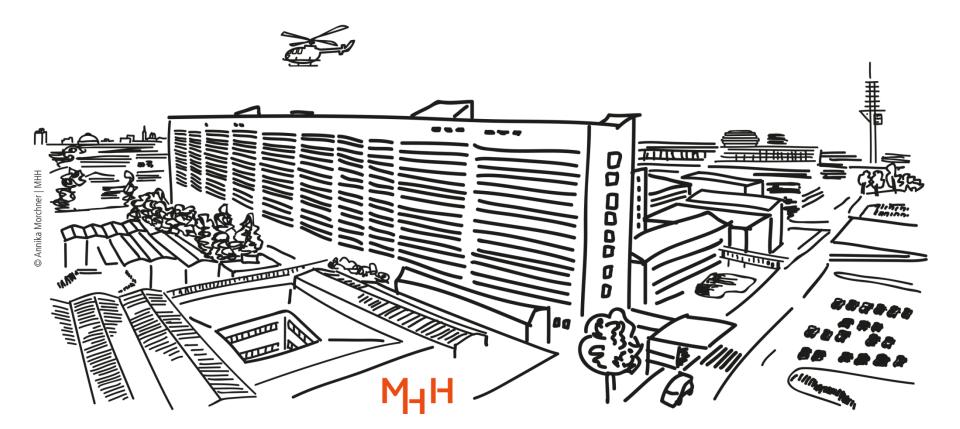
Hannover Medical School







Sexual Violence and the Neurobiological Correlates of Pedophilia and Child Sexual Offending

SPEAKER: JONAS KNEER

Department of Clinical Psychology and Sexual Medicine.



OUTLINE

- Sexuality
- Sexual Violence
- Research in Pedophilia and CSO
- Prevention of Sexual Violence





W Human Sexuality

"Sexuality is a state of being, a way of experiencing and giving pleasure to ourselves and others. It has the potential to be a powerful and positive force that deepens intimate connections. It can also be a source of great pain."

(http://www.ourbodiesourselves.org)



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Human Sexuality II

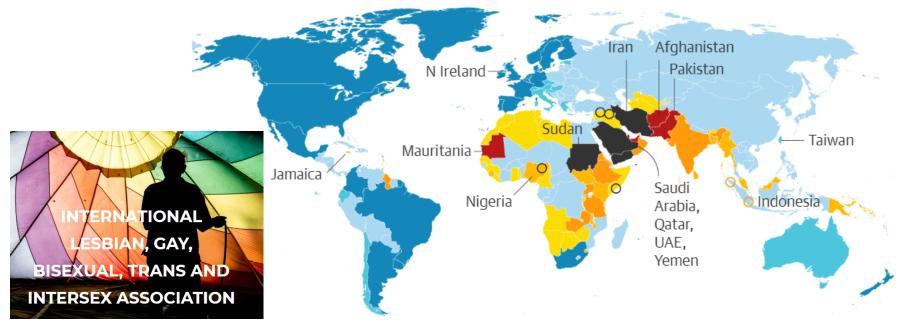
No penalising law

- Recognises civil union
- Recognises marriage



Homosexuality is criminalised - 0-7 year sentence

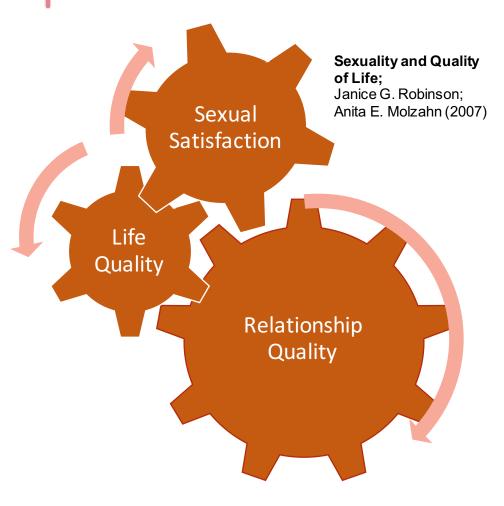
- 8-14 years 15 years to life 0 15 years to life in some areas
- Death penalty O Death penalty in part of country
- Death penalty but not applied



It remained the case that there is no country in the world where LGBT people are safe from discrimination, stigmatisation or violence" (Aengus Carroll, ILGA).



w Human Sexuality



Dr David Weeks and Jamie James SUPERYOUNG

SEX can keep you youg

young forever

Superyoung. The proven way to stay young forever (Weeks, D. J. & James, J., 1998) Secrets of the Superyoung: The Scientific reasons some people look ten years younger than they really are – and how you can, too. (Weeks, D. J. & James, J. 1999)



What is sexual violence?

"Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person **regardless of their relationship** to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work." **WHO** (Krug et al., 2002).

Unwanted touching

Sexual assault Exhibitionism

Sexual coercion

Voyeurism

Any type of sexual contact

- with someone who cannot <u>consent</u>, such as someone who is underage/under the age of consent (as defined by state laws), has an intellectual disability, or is passed out (such as from drugs or alcohol) or unable to respond (such as from sleeping).
- with someone who does not consent

http://www.wyomentalhealth.org/



Long-Term Effects of Sexual Violence

Of women who are raped:

- Approximately 70% experience moderate to severe distress.¹
- 33% contemplate suicide. 13% attempt suicide.²
- 94% experience symptoms of PTSD (within two weeks) 30% still suffer 9 months after .³

1.J. R. T. Davidson & E. B. Foa (Eds.) Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: DSM-IV and Beyond. American Psychiatric Press: Washington, DC. (pp. 23-36).

2.DG Kilpatrick, CN Edumuds, AK Seymour. Rape in America: A Report to the Nation. Arlington, VA: National Victim Center and Medical University of South Carolina (1992).

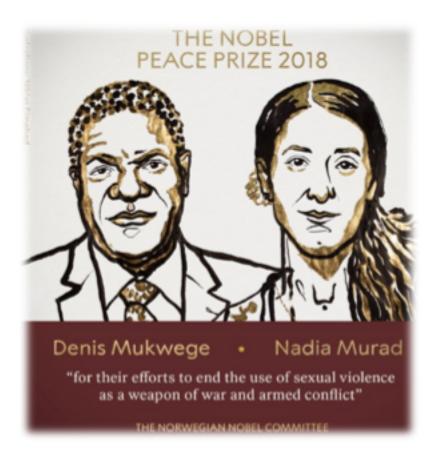
3.Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Socio-emotional Impact of Violent Crime (2014).

https://www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence





Working in the Field of SV Prevention







Where does Sexual Violence Happen?









Prevalence of Sexual Violence: Child Sexual Offending

- The global prevalence of child sexual abuse: 19.7% for females and 7.9% for males under an age of 18. (Pereda, 2009)
- 12,7% (18% girls, 7,6% boys). (Stoltenborgh, 2011)
- 11 % of females reported a history of severe sexual abuse compared with 4% males. (Ontario, Canada: MacMillan, 1997)
- 10% of men and 22% of women had experienced sexual child abuse. (Data from Quebec collected in 2006)







Prevalence of Sexual Violence: Sexual Violence Against Adults

In the U.S.,

- 36.3% of women and 17.1% of men experienced some form of **contact sexual violence** (SV) during their lifetime.
- About 50% of women and 25% of men have experienced some form of sexual violence during their lifetime.

Smith et al. (2017) The national intimate Partner survey and sexual violence survey.

- Estimated 19.3% of women and 1.7% of men have been raped during their lifetimes.
- The Majority of sexual assault victims is under 30

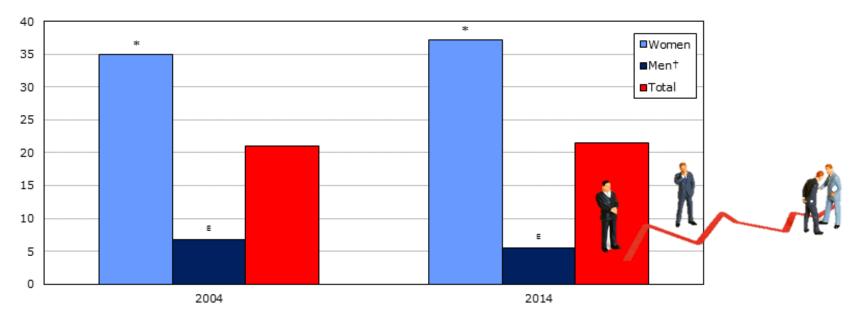


Peterson et al. 2017; Lifetime Economic Burden of Rape Among U.S. Adults



Prevalence of sexual assaults (Canada)

• **1 in 3 women in Canada** will experience sexual assault at some point over the course of their lives (Government of Ontario, 2011)



- Women self-reported 553,000 sexual assaults.¹
- sexual assault is one of the top five most common violent offences committed against women in Canada (Sinha, 2013)

¹https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/14842-eng.htm



Estimated Costs of Sexual Violence

Canadians collectively spend \$7.4 billion to deal with the aftermath of spousal violence alone.

Each year in Canada, the collective financial impact for women who experience SV is \$3.4 billion in medical costs, lost productivity, and intangible costs like pain and suffering.

https://www.canadianwomen.org/the-facts/sexualassault-harassment/#easy-footnote-bottom-20-109

COSTS OF CHILD SEX ABUSE PER CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION

COST PER VICTIM
\$ 2,100
490
5,800
56
1,100
9,500
89,800
99,000

Note. Adapted from Miller, Cohen, & Wiersma (1996); figures in 1993 U.S. dollars

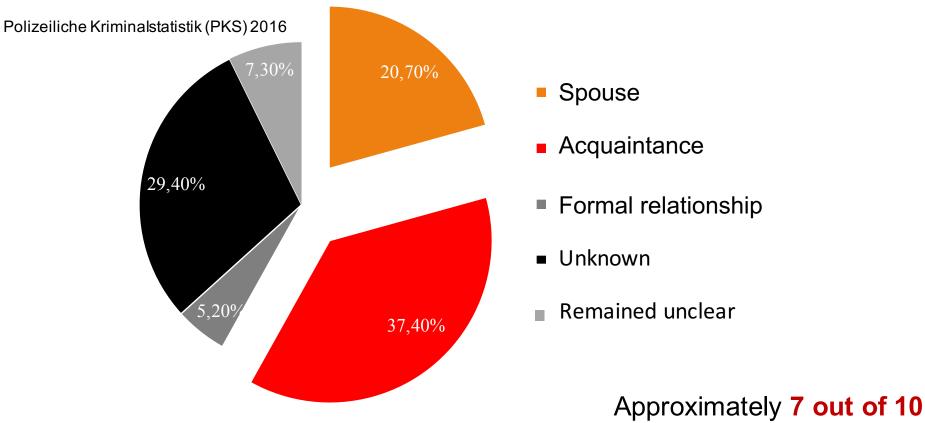
Lifetime cost per victim of nonfatal child maltreatment in the USA: \$210,000

Fang et al. 2012



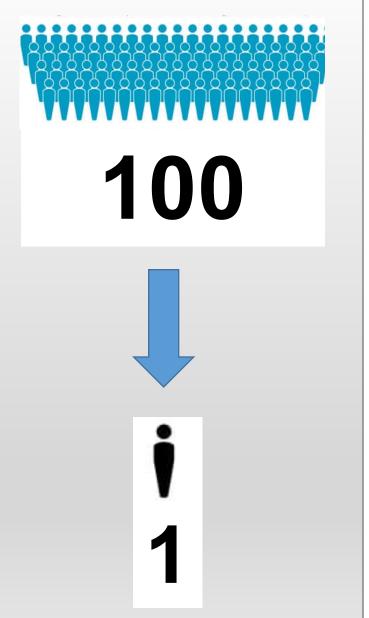
Victim and Offender Relationship in SV

(Germany)



sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim.





Who are the Perpetrators



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Who are the Perpetrators

- Estimated 9 out of 10 perpetrators offend again
- Neither the reports to the police nor the resulting convictions are representative
- we have no information about the people in the dark field (not reported to the police)
- They are not facing court or maybe any negative consequence at all





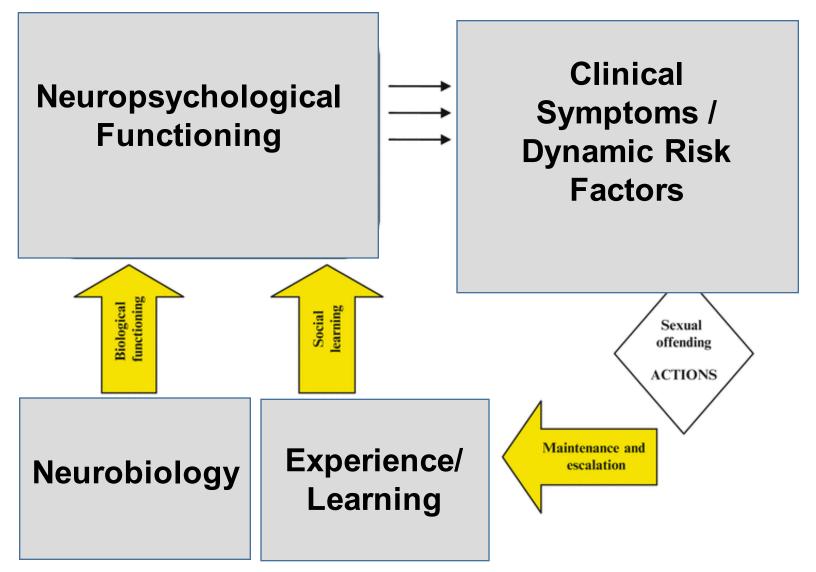


Summary of Sexual Violence I

- SV affects a worrisome number of people, but it is less common than sexual abuse of minors.
- Sexual violence can have serious long term consequences
- Even though adult males are victims of numerous sexual assaults, they are victimized less often than women.
- Adults of all ages are victims of SV. Adults under the age of 25 are most commonly affected by SV.
- Compared to minors, adults seem to be victimized by strangers more often than by assaults family members.
- Most sexual assaults against adults are committed by acquaintances.
- Only estimated 5% 10 % of sexual assaults are reported to police in 2014.

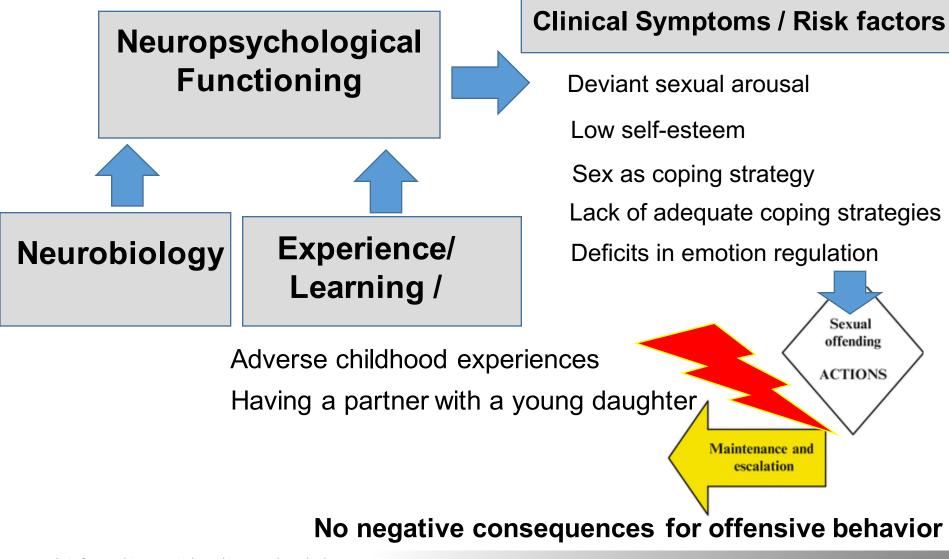


The ITSO (Ward & Beech, 2006)



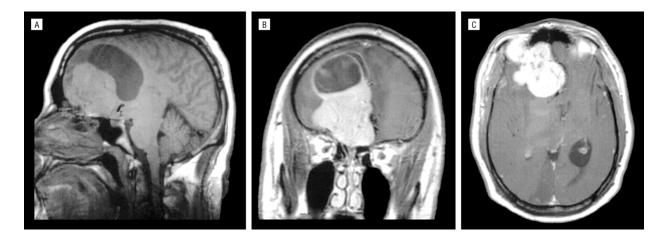


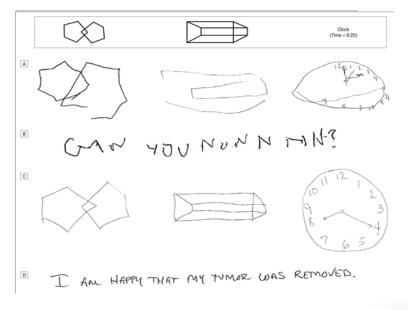
CASE I: Mr. Y





CASE II: Mr. Z (Burns & Swerdlow, 2000)





Orbitofrontal abnormalities lead to poor impulse control, altered sexual behavior, and sociopathy.

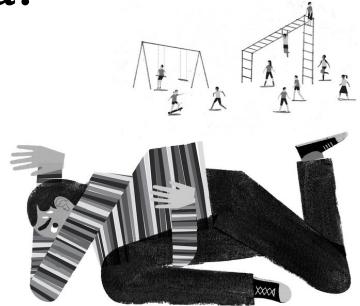
marked constructional apraxia, and agraphia.

The behavioral symptoms and constructional deficits, including agraphia, resolved following tumor resection.



Why should we Study and Treat Pedophila?

Pedophilia: A Disorder ? Definitly Not a Crime



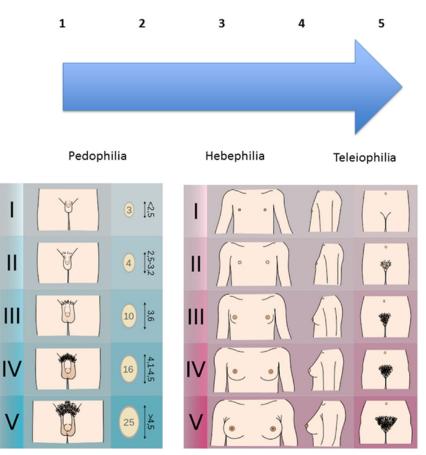
One cannot choose to not be a pedophile, but one can choose to not be a child molester" *Dr. James Cantor, professor University of Toronto and a leading expert on pedophilia*



Definition of Pedophilic Disorder According to DSM-V

- A Over a period of at least 6 months, recurrent, intense sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges or behaviors involving sexual activity with a prepubescent child or children (generally age 13 years or younger)
- B The person has acted on these sexual urges, or the sexual urges or fantasies cause marked distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning
- C The person is at least age 16 years and at least five years older than the children in Criterion A or Criterion B





sexual preference is more a fate than a choice

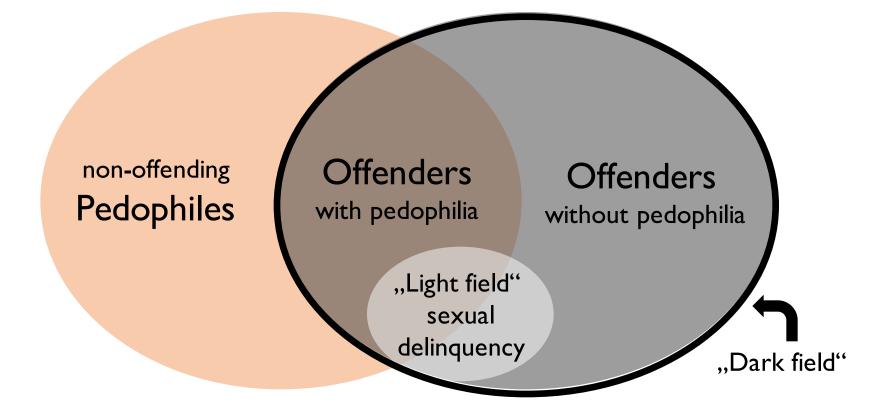


Pedophilia *≠* Child Sexual Offending

Disorder of sexual preference

Pedophilia/Hebephilia exclusive & non-exclusive type

Sexual conduct disorder child sexual offending

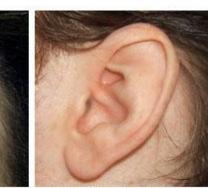




Insights Gained so far in Pedophilia Research ...

HailOnline





Detached Earlobes

Latest Headlines | Science | Pictures | Discounts

Can scientists spot a pedophile? Study claims they are more likely to have physical deformities and be lefthanded

- It also found pedophiles were more likely to have non-detached earlobes
- Other physical irregularities include mishappen ears and being short
- These can develop due to baby's exposure to alcohol or drugs in the womb
- Scientists suggest pedophiles can be identified before they commit a crime



Dyshniku, F., Murray, M.E., Fazio, R.L. et al. Arch Sex Behav (2015) 44: 2151. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-015-0564-7



Differences in Child Sexual Offending:

Alterations of intelligence, handedness and prefrontal function?

General Dysfunction

- Lower overall IQ Kruger & Schiffer 2011, Cantor et al 2005, Blanchard et al. 2007
- Higher frequency of left-handedness Cantor et al. 2004, 2006 Blanchard et al 2007
- Lower levels of academic achievement Cantor et al. 2006
- Lower job capacity Kruger & Schiffer 2011, Suchy et al 2009
- Verbal word fluency Langevin et al 1989
- Verbal and spatial working memory Cantor et al 2004
- Verbal learning and word fluency Joyal et al 2007
- Emotion recognition & empathy Gery et al 2009
- Attention Kafka & Hennen 2002
- Executive functioning Kruger & Schiffer, 2011,, Suchy et al 2009, 2011
- Research has been done on CSO.
- Different confounders should be considered.

Clinic for Psychiatry, Social Psychiatry and Psychotherapy Hannover Medical School 10/25/2018 Trois-Rivieres Canada Tenbergen et al. 2015 Frontiers in Human Neuroscience

Specific cognitive dysfunctions

The **NeMUP**-Project

Neural Mechanisms Underlying Pedophilia and Sexual Offending Against Children



Decoding the neural basis of pedophilia and child sexual offending

Clinical, neuropsychological and (epi-) genetic alterations in pedophilia and child sexual offending





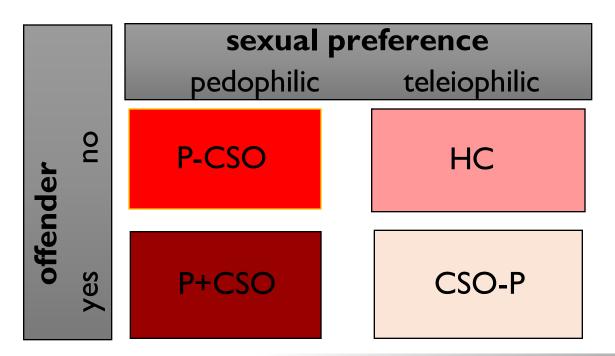
NeMUP Common Trunk Approach

(Neuro-) Psychology	Structural MRI	Functional MRI	Imaging Genetics & Epigenetics	Endocrinology
Psychopathology SCID-I & II, BIS	Grey Matter Volume, Density	Resting State	SNP & VNTR analyses	Associations with Imaging, Genetics
Sexual Assessment VT, SIS/SES, CTQ, paraphilias	White Matter Microstructural Integrity, Structural connectivity	fMRI-based assessment of pedophilia	Promoter methylations	und Psychology e.g. testosterone
Empathy / Theory of Mind MET, SPF-IRI		Executive Functions Go/No-Go		
Cognitive Performance WAIS, CANTAB				



Aims of the NeMUP Study

- 1. Characterization according to sexual preference and offense status (2x2 factorial design) (n > 400)
- 2. Understanding clinical, neural, genetic and hormonal mechanisms of pedophilia (P) and child sexual offending (CSO)
- 3. Evaluating effects of psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy
- 4. Improving screening, diagnosis, prevention & treatment





Characteristics Associated with Offense Status

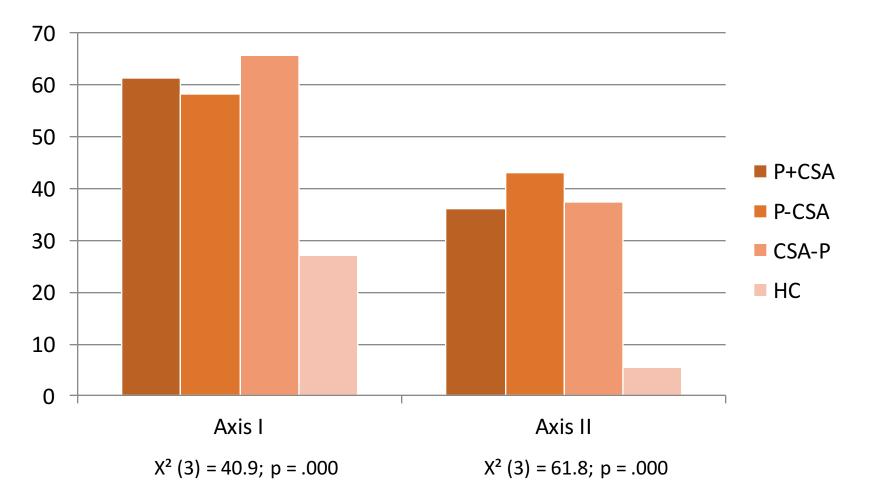
age, intelligence, education & own experience of child sexual abuse

Groups (N=342)	P+CSO (83)	P-CSO (79)	CSO-P (32)	HC (148)	Statistic
Age	40.0 (9.6)	34.6 (9.7)	43.3 (12.8)	33.6 (9.9)	H(3) = 34.0; p = .000
Educational level (0-5)	2.87 (1.17)	3.68 (0.94)	2.41 (1.10)	3.82 (0.90)	H(3) = 99.276; p = .000
Total intelligence score WAIS	99.00 (18.75)	106.8 (17.53)	90.94 (15.00)	105.15 (18.75)	H(3) = 25.011; p = .000
Vocabulary	8.90 (3.31)	10.99 (2.98)	8.32 (2.50)	10.84 (3.27)	H(3) = 35.887; p = .000
Similarities	8.84 (3.04)	10.28 (2.94)	7.68 (2.99)	9.94 (3.04)	H(3) = 22.311; p = .000
SPF-IRI empathetic concern	14.49 (2.91)	14.07 (3.24)	16.00 (3.05)	13.82 (2.37)	H(3) = 20.333; p = .000
CTQ sexual abuse	8.29 (5.15)	6.70 (3.55)	10.07 (5.77)	5.37 (1.29)	H(3) = 76.578; p = .000
Mean later. index EHI (SD)	65.74 (5.53)	61.44 (6.35)	76.25 (8.60)	65.84 (4.64)	H (3)= 7.225; p = .064

Note: All data given as M(SD).



There are no Types of Pedophiles or Offenders – but Comorbidities





Multiple Regression

Classification Quality

Group	Relevant Variables	Sensitivity	Specificity	Overall Acc.	R ²
P+CSO, P-CSO vs. HC CCO P	Increased Sexual desire, voyeurism, CTQ, SIS, SES	66%	74%	68 %	23%
P+CSO vs. P-CSO	AGE, Education, CTQ, sexual sadism	74%	74%	74%	37%
P+CSO, CSO-P vs. HC, P-CSO	BIS, CTQ, AGE	71%	77%	76%	33%



I Conclusion: Clinical Characteristics

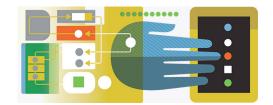
- 1. All experimental groups showed increased rates of axis 1 and axis 2 disorders
- 2. Findings on psychiatric comorbidities, cluster C personality disorders, and impulsiveness not clearly traceable to only one of the two factors in question
- 3. Adverse childhood experience where higher in P+CSO and CSO-P than in P-CSO
- 4. Findings regarding lower levels of education and intelligence, and higher levels of own experience of childhood sexual abuse rather stand in contrast to recent findings



Neuropsychology

Cantab Test battery

- 1. Pedophilia is not associated with EF deficiencies. Offense status however is associated with a greater degree of impulsivity as evidenced by greater error rates and faster response times on tasks measuring response inhibition performance
- 2. Differential age-performance-associations revealed that pedophiles become more impulsive when getting older whereas teleiophiles (normal controls) show the opposite pattern
- 3. However, no across-the-board deficits in executive function!





Neurobiological Correlates of Pedophilia

Insights gained so far...

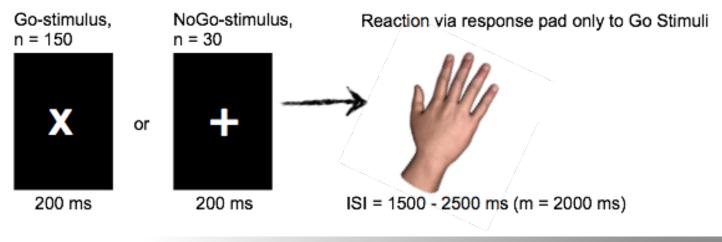
- Results are still scarce and inconsistent because of the assessment of mixed groups of sexual offenders (for an overview see Mohnke et al., 2014; Tenbergen et al., 2015; Fabian, 2012)
- There is some converging evidence for a smaller amygdala volume in pedophiles (Mohnke *et al.*, 2014) but everything else is just speculation and remains unclear.
- There is no evidence that brain damage actually causes genuine sexual deviancy (Fabian, 2012)





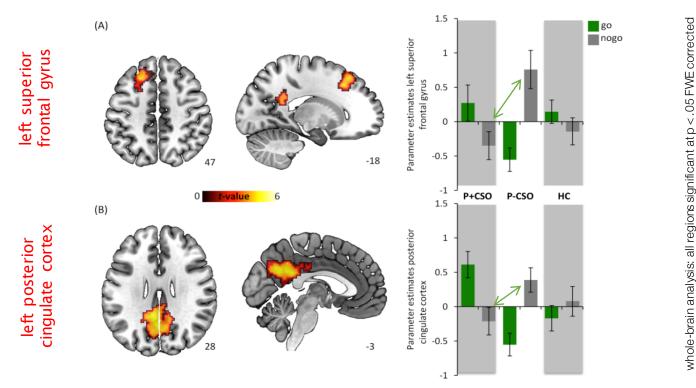
Go/NoGo fMRI: Background

- Response inhibition = ability to inhibit a pre-planned action
- Pedophiles who committed CSO yielded decreased executive functioning performance in general (Suchy et al., 2009; Eastvold et al., 2011)
- CSO but not pedophilia has been found to be associated with deficits in response inhibition (Schiffer & Vonlaufen, 2011; Eastvold et al., 2011, Joyal et al., 2014; Turner, 2018)



Inhibition during fMRI

Go/Nogo Paradigm: Superior inhibition in non-offending pedophiles



for display purposes: voxellevel: p < .001uncorrected, clusterlevel: p < .05 FWE corrected

2017

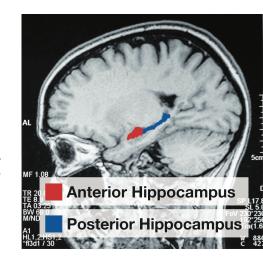
- Improved inhibitory control abilities (self-control) in P-CSO as compared to both other groups, indicated by reduced amount of commission errors
- P-CSO might deploy a neural compensatory mechanism involving the PCC facilitating efficient cognitive functioning

MRI Analysis of Gray Matter

- The grey matter serves to process information in the brain.
- Grey matter contains most of the brain's neuronal cell bodies.
- The grey matter includes regions of the brain involved in muscle control, sensory perception such as seeing and hearing, memory, emotions (Amygdala), decision making (PFC), and self-control (PFC).

London taxi drivers study:

The results provide evidence for structural differences between the hippocampi of London taxi drivers and control participants, therefore suggesting that extensive practice with spatial navigation affects the hippocampus (Maguire, 2000).





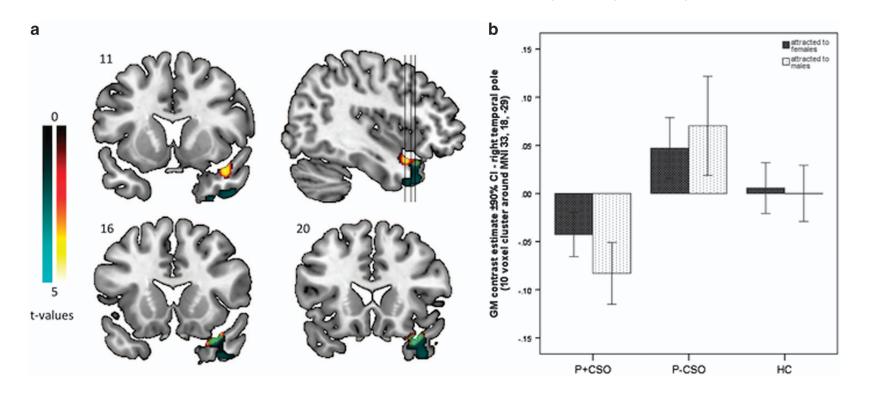
Brain Imaging on Child Sexual Offending

	CASES	CONTROLS	VOLUME REDUCTIONS
Schiltz et al. (2007)	15 CSO (inpatient)	15	Amygdala R, Hypothalamus L/R, Innominate substance L/R, Striae terminalis L/R, Septal region R
Schiffer et al. (2007)	18 CSO (inpatient)	24	Cerebellum L/R, Inferior frontal gyrus L/R, Cingulate L/R, Posterior Cingulate L, Insula L/R, Precuneus L/R, Parahippocampal gyrus L/R, Superior temporal gyrus L/R, Medial temporal gyrus R, Putamen L/R, (Amygdala L/R in unpublished ROI analysis)
Cantor et al. (2008)	44 CSO (outpatient) (pedo- & hebephilia)	53 NSO (outpatient)	Superior fronto-occipital fasciculus L, Arcuate fasciculus R
Cantor & Blanchard (2012)	19 CSO pedophilia 49 CSO hebephilia	47 NSO (outpatient)	Bilateral temporal & parietal
Poepplet al. (2013)	9 CSO (inpatient)	11 NSO (inpatient)	Amygdala R
Gerwinn et al. (2015)	12 CSO (outpatient) 12 Non-CSO (outpatient)	32	 No findings using DTI
Cantor et al. (2015)	24 CSO (outpatient)	32	Elevated fractional anisotropy in left-hemispheric cluster comprising internal/external capsules, corona radiata, inferior fronto-occipital fasciculus, anterior thalamic radiation

see Mohnke et al. (2014) for a review



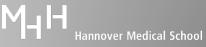
Alterations in Grey Matter associated with offender status but not with pedophilia per se



CSO+P show lower volume in the temporal pole. Regression analysis show that a reduced volume in the dmPFC and ACC are associated with a higher risk of reoffending.

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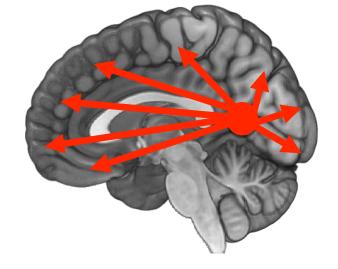
Schiffer et al. 2017 Transl Psychiatry 16;7(5):e1129



Restingstate fMRI: Background

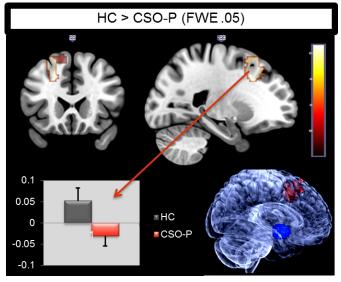
Functional Connectivity Analysis

- Analysis of the spontaneous lowfrequency fluctuations (<0.1 Hz) of the resting brain
- Enables to analyze interactions between brain regions
- No specific demands for subjects (no task)
- Analysis methods : functional connectivity -> correlation between a given seed region and the rest of the brain





Limbic network



Kneer et al. 2018

Default mode network

Seed ROI = PCC

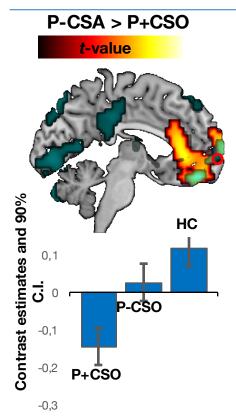


HC > P+CSOt-value Contrast estimates and 90% HC 0,1 **..** 0 P-CSO -0,1 -0,2 _{-0,3} **P+CSO**

Limbic network

= left amygdala



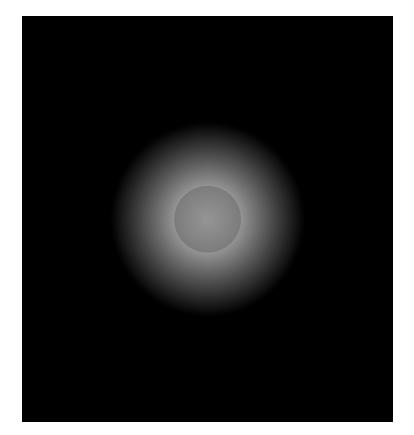


Kärgel et al. 2015



Differences between light- and darkfield

- Less victims
- Higher age





Limitations

- possible sample effects: Self-identified pedophiles
- with a motivation to participate in research
- most of the subjects already received treatment
- effects of Psychiatric comorbidities and incarceration are possible
- Correlation is not causation!



Conclusion / Implications

- The most of the effects seem to be more offence than pedophilia related actions speak louder than the mere sexual preference.
- Neurobiological correlates of pedophilia itself are very difficult to identify
- We could not see any global deficits. Not in pedophilia and neither in sexual offending.

Results indicate the need for new neurobehavioral theories on pedophilia and CSO and may be potentially useful for treatment and prevention that aim to reduce the risk of (re)offending in pedophilia.

... further research is necessary



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Inside the brain of a paedophile: MRI scans reveal how child molesters may be wired differently

- Paedophiles who don't abuse kids have greater self-control than molesters
- Researchers say there are differences in the brains of those who attack
- This showed up as activity in a certain part of the brain during MRI scans
- Knowledge could help prevent dangerous paedophiles from offending

Kärgel C, Massau C, Kneer J., et al. Evidence for superior neurobiological and behavioral inhibitory control abilities in non-offending as compared to offending pedophiles. Hum Brain Mapp 2017;38:1092-1104.



The German Criminal Code: A Basis for Research and Prevention

- There is no mandatory child abuse reporting law in Germany
- Therapist-client confidentiality is guaranteed unless there is evidence of an imminent risk of a child sexual abuse occurring, associated with the risk of homicide

Pedophiles are most likely to abuse when they are most desperate and feel they have nothing to lose.

Dr. James Cantor, a professor at the University of Toronto and a leading expert on pedophilia



Do you like children in ways you shouldn't?



don't offend.

there is help free of charge and confidential



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http://dont-offend.org/



Don't Offend Spot I





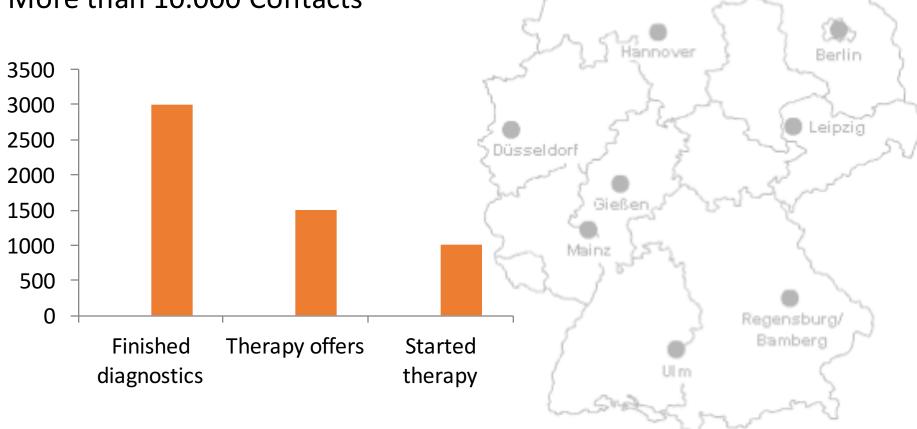
Don't Offend Spot II





Project participants since 2005





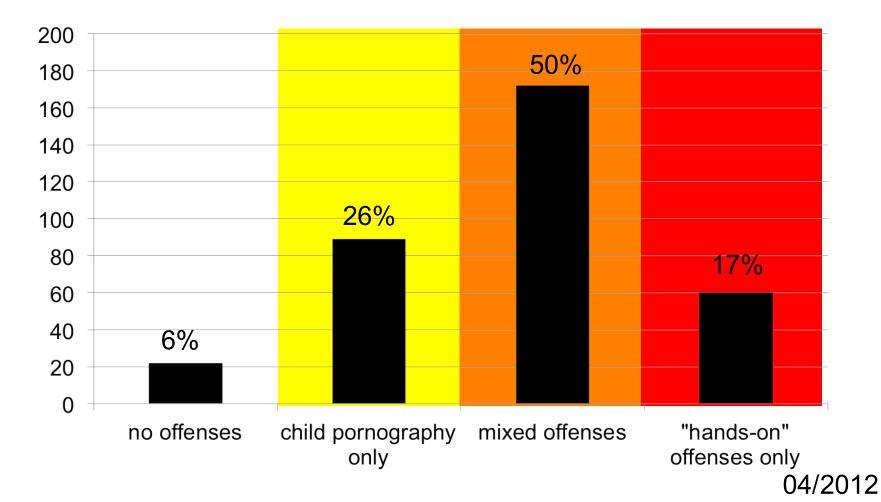
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Kiel

Stralsund

Offenses among "don't offense"participants (n=343 Berlin site)



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MHH Hannover Medical School

What can we do against CSO? 3-pillars-model





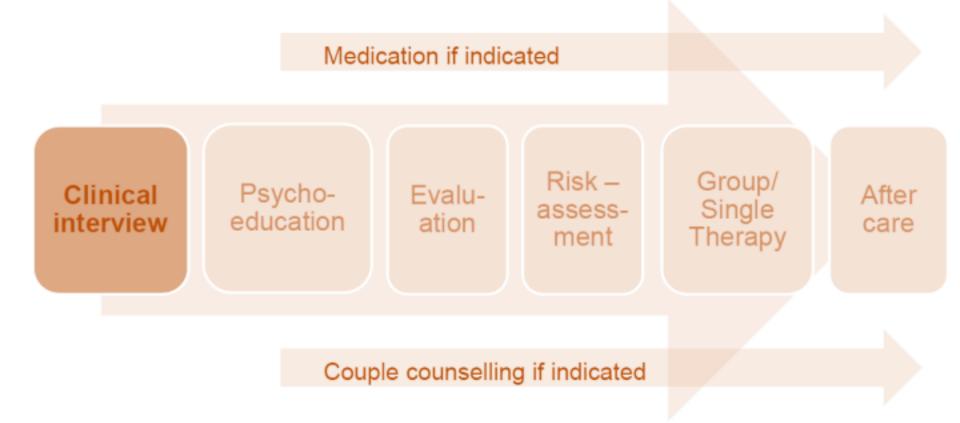
Reduction of Risk factors, therapy in the don't offend project

Sexual

interest in High sexual children Low selfdesire esteem **Psychotherapy** General Poor social antisocial relationship Integration / cognitions quality acceptance of sexual preference (Fear of) Narrow CSA possibilities Dissexual supportive to create behaviors positive cognition mood states Pedo-hebephilic Poor preoccupation problem Social isolation solving development abilities of self-regulation skills Emotionand behavioral control Opportunity regulation deficits Sexual self-Negative regulation social **Pharmacotherapy** influences deficits



Treatment Setting









praevention-sexueller-gewalt.de Since 4/2017



THE PROCESS OF OUR THERAPEUTIC WORK









OUR THERAPEUTIC WORK

- Focus on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Working on Risk Factors
- Treatment also of nonsexual topics such as co-morbid mental disorders
- Using techniques from programs for convicted sexual offenders (e.g. SOETP, GLM)





"Would it upset you if I said I'm not bothered if your heart is not in it?"

\rightarrow BUT more heterogenic group of patients

al / Helbi@couples grow.com/main/wpntent/uploads/2016/10/sex therapy 101seriesrron 1048_hi-copy.jpg



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