

Sexual Coercion: From Persuasion to Sadism

Charles Flinton, PhD

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Track: Sex Offender

CE: CPA/BBS/BRN, MCLE (1.5)

POST TBD

Narrative

This workshop is designed for researchers, forensic evaluators, judges, attorneys, and other professionals who seek to expand their knowledge and skills in identifying coercive-agonistic paraphilic disorders. The DSM-5 only defines one point on the coercive-agonistic spectrum with its description of Sexual Sadism Disorder. However, front-line clinicians (and some researchers) are well aware that coercive-agonistic-driven paraphilic disorders include a wide range of disorders that are currently allocated to the category of Other Specified Paraphilic Disorders (OSPD). The OSPD designation requires clinicians to describe/explain the disorder. This presentation specifically targets the improvement of professional skills for assessing the presence of paraphilic disorders along the coercive-agonistic continuum, and explaining it. This presentation will discuss the continuum of sexual preference and arousal involving various degrees of sexual-target dominance, (e.g., simple coaxing-compliance, obedience, submission, subjugation, fear, emotional anguish, physical pain, humiliation, etc.). Abnormal sexual interests in this domain are important risk factors that are commonly encountered in forensic assessment. Sadistic offenders often dominate this discussion. The goal of this presentation is to discuss a complete range of arousal patterns within this spectrum. Specifically, in addition to sadistic offenders, those offenders who are aroused by the use of power over their victims, e.g., repeated professional sexual misconduct violators (teachers, clergy, etc.), as well as those offenders who seek coercion through use of substances (e.g., alcohol, drugs, etc.), and those who are aroused by pain/suffering will be discussed. Presentation attendees will gain the knowledge to distinguish paraphilic disorders along the above-described continuum by integrating the sound use of objective assessment tools (e.g., penile plethysmograph, VRT, etc.), structured clinical interview approaches, and thoughtful document review. Attendees will leave the presentation with a comprehensive understanding of the existing current research on the topic, and its limitations. Strategies for communicating this research, and its application to specific cases will be presented. Significant focus will be on ruling out non-paraphilic causes/motivations for unusual sexual misconduct. Clinical and legal controversies of diagnosing Sexual Sadism and Other Specified Paraphilic Disorder will be discussed. This training will include case vignettes, video examples, audio interviews, report excerpts, and testimony transcripts.

BIO

Charles Flinton, PhD

Founder, Clinical Director, Forensic Psychologist, San Francisco Forensic Institute

Charles has been engaged in research, assessment, and treatment of child abuse since 1986. Since 1992, his work has focused on assessing and treating sexual offenders. His work includes consulting on the management of sexual offenders with various local and national organizations, including the Center on Sex Offender Management (CSOM), Generation 5, the National Organization of Women (NOW), and the California Sexual Offender Management Board (CASOMB). In 2004, he was appointed Co-Chair of the San Francisco Sex Offender Management Alliance (SFSOMA) by the San Francisco's Mayor's Office. In 2006, Charles co-authored, "Engaging Resistance," a book that explores the manner in which sexual offenders resist change and how this resistance both mirrors and is facilitated by treatment providers, the criminal justice/child welfare systems, and society. In 2008, he founded the San Francisco Forensic Institute, a state-of-the-art forensic psychological assessment center. In 2010, as chair of the Adult Standards Committee of the California Coalition on Sexual Offending, he was the primary author for the "Guidelines and Best Practices: Adult Male Sex Offender Treatment." Most recently, he co-founded the Blue Rock Institute, an organization aimed to prevent sexual abuse through early intervention and education. Charles is currently completing a manuscript on "The Institutionalization and Deinstitutionalization of Sexual Offenders: A management and treatment planning guide for sex offender community reintegration."

Deirdre D'Orazio, PhD

Chief Executive Officer, Central Coast Clinical & Forensic Psychology Services, INC

Deirdre serves as a consultant to the California Department of State Hospitals, where she has worked in various capacities for more than fifteen years, including as staff psychologist, senior supervising psychologist, SVP forensic evaluator, and director of evaluation and development services, overseeing the treatment and forensic evaluation programs for the Sexually Violent Predator program at Coalinga State Hospital. In her current position she serves as liaison to the SVP Conditional Release program, consultant on sexual offender risk assessment and treatment planning, and designee to the California Sex Offender Management Board (CASOMB). In her private practice, Deirdre provides clinical services, expert forensic services, training, outcome evaluation, and program development. She serves on the leadership boards for the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, the Sexual Offender Civil Commitment Network, and CASOMB, and is a past board member of the California Coalition On Sexual Offending (CCOSO). Deirdre has conducted more than 700 sexual offender evaluations, has provided expert witness testimony on 67 occasions, and has treated approximately 400 sexual offense perpetrators and victims. She has particular interest and published papers, professional presentations, and research projects in the areas of sexual offender risk assessment, diagnosis, best practices in offender treatment, treatment program development and evaluation, and clinical supervision. She holds psychologist licenses in California, Minnesota, and North Dakota and is a certified trainer for the Static-99R, the Structured Risk Assessment Forensic Version, and the Stable and Acute 2007.

Learning Objectives

1. Explain what is meant by the Agnostic Continuum.
2. Describe how to properly assess for and diagnose various preference points on the Agonistic Continuum.
3. Explain how to communicate helpfully and credibly about paraphilic disorders that lie on the agonistic continuum.