The Offending Narrative

Anna C. Salter, Ph.D.
Agenda

- Typology of sex offenders
- Sex offender dynamics in families
  - Implicit vs explicit denial
  - Malignant competition
- Psychopathic entitlement and the impact on victims
- Sadistic offenders & emotional safety
- Violent cognitions
Handouts

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“A few weeks ago at work, I spoke my mind and gave my opinion in a clear and no bullshit way; no aggression, just blunt. The man I was working with (actually, he was working for me) said ‘Whoa, we’re all on the same team here!’ As if I was yelling at him. I was so shocked because nothing I said was personal, offensive, or, to be honest, wrong. All I hear and see all day are men speaking their opinions, and I gave mine in the same exact manner, and you would have thought I had said something offensive.”
Women in a Meeting

Alexandra Petri

(Washington Post, 10/13/15)
“Give me liberty or give me death”

“Dave, if I could, I could just – I just really feel like if we had liberty it would be terrific, and the alternative would just be awful, you know? That’s just how it strikes me. I don’t know.”
“I have a dream”

“I’m sorry, I just had this idea – it’s probably crazy, but – look, just as long as we’re throwing things out here – I had sort of an idea or vision about maybe the future?”
“Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”

“I’m sorry, Mikhail, if I could? Didn’t mean to cut you off there. Can we agree that this wall maybe isn’t quite doing what it should be doing. Just looking at everything everyone’s been saying, it seems like we could consider removing it. Possibly. I don’t know, what does the room feel?”
“Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.

“I’m not an expert, Dave, but I feel like maybe you could accomplish more by maybe shifting your focus from asking things from the government and instead looking at things that we can all do ourselves? Just a thought. Just a thought. Take it for what it’s worth.”
“Let my people go.”

“Pharaoh, listen, I totally hear where you’re coming from on this. I totally do. And I don’t want to butt in if you’ve come to a decision here, but, just, I have to say, would you consider that an argument for maybe releasing these people could conceivably have merit? Or is that already off the table?”
Sex Offenders

Motivations for sexual offending
1. Deviant Arousal Pattern

Sexually attracted to children

Otherwise responsible

E.g., teachers, priests, youth leaders, doctors, coaches businessmen, etc.
“My attraction to 2-year-olds? I would say it’s a ten, off the charts.

I am attracted to young people, in general – 0 to 13. At 13, puberty sets in, and I lose the attraction.”
Sexual Preoccupation

Q. How often do you think about sex?

A. I think about sex 3 or 4 hours a day, maybe 6 tops.
Sexual Preoccupation

Q. ”Has your masturbation gotten you in trouble or caused you pain?”

A. ”I had a hernia operation. I think it is related to my masturbating 3,000 times a month.”
“Putting a child in front of me is like putting a glass of wine in front of an alcoholic.”
“James”

“My last victim, Kyle, was a beautiful boy. His body was lithe and athletic and did not have that hint of fat that many boys his age have. When he put his arms above his head, his naked smooth armpits revealed that his body hadn’t developed yet and he looked far younger than his age of 12. He was slim, his skin was supple and hairless, he was delicate and beautiful.”
Deviant Arousal

“When I jerked off, I tried to fantasize about girls my age in my classes, but it didn’t work. When I thought about kids, I felt guilty, but I got really aroused and I could ejaculate. Although I didn’t really want them to be, the fantasies were about feeling these kids up and sucking their dicks. The more I did it, the easier it got.”
Successful Predators

Genial, Affable, Likeable

Charming

Helpful

Highly skilled
Sexually Attracted to Children

Q. How much of the time do you fantasize about boys?’’

A. I’d say about half the day. It’s when I’m not doing anything.
Minister Who Molested Grandchildren

“I suppose that being a devout religious person, if I had believed with all of my mind and heart that the earth was going to open up and swallow me into hell, I would have went ahead and done it anyway.”
Arousal Patterns

- Pre-pubescent children 0 – 13
- Post-pubescent adolescents 14 +
- Barely pubescent children 11 to 14
Sandusky’s Victims

Ages

8 to 18
Hebephilia

24-year-old

6 convictions for sex with 13-year-olds

Almost no sex with adults > 18

- Told one girl she was “very hot, she was sexy and had a nice body.”
- She told him she was 11 and he said she looked 13.
Normal Arousal Pattern
(Abuse post-pubescent teens)

Responsible in community

Good at their jobs

Charming/personable

Poor boundaries/bad brakes
Dynamics of Sexual Assault

Motor

Brakes
Dynamics of Sexual Abuse

Motor

Deviant arousal pattern
To children
To force
To sadism

Normal arousal pattern
Brakes

- Common sense
- Moral code
- Fear of consequences
- Attachment to family
- Fear of hurting victim
- Empathy
Sexual Abuse

Sometimes a faulty motor

Always a failure of brakes
Identification with Children

Relate poorly to adults

Intimidated by women

Children accepting, nonjudgmental, open-hearted
Identification with Children

Uncomfortable around adults his age
“They seemed so much more grown up than I was.” “I felt awkward, like I couldn’t get one foot in front of the other.”

Children: “They weren’t trying to live up to some social standard.” “I envied them because they seemed so free, so at ease in their world.”
Identification with Children

“I will admit that I especially liked looking at the boys. They were so cute, bright eyed, smooth skin. It sounds silly, but I wished that I could look like that, rather than a hulky, almost adult male.”
How Pedophiles Think

“She wanted it.”

“She enjoyed it just as much as I did.”

“She came on to me.”

“He was erect. If he didn’t like it, he wouldn’t have been erect.”

“It is enjoyable.”

“He didn’t say anything.”

“He didn’t run screaming from the room.”

“He came back.”
Messages to Victims

- You came on to me.
- You wanted it.
- You enjoyed it as much as I did.
Sequela of Sexual Abuse

Cutting
Drug and alcohol addiction
Suicide attempts
Dissociation
Workaholism

Home grown solutions to chronic pain
Ways to Get Away

“One night the pain got so bad and I needed it to stop.”
Sequela of Sexual Abuse

- Depression
- Anxiety
Affective Sequelae

- Affective Flashbacks
- Secondary to Cognitions
- Secondary to Current Realities
Affective Flashbacks

Lava tubes
Secondary to Cognitions

- Victims internalize the thinking errors of offenders
- Trauma-based world view
Messages to Victims

- You came on to me.
- You wanted it.
- You enjoyed it as much as I did.
How to Build a Trauma Bond
Capacity for Empathy

Normal

None
Capacity for Empathy

Thinking Errors

Normal None
Grooming

Identity potential target

Availability – Vulnerability – Desirability

(FBI Behavioral Analysis Group Offending Typology)
Grooming

- Gather information about needs and vulnerabilities
- Via communication or interaction/observation with others
Establish a connection

Access via relationship, activity, and/or organization

Alienate or ingratiating caretakers
- Fill needs and vulnerabilities

- Core grooming behaviors, influenced by offender’s skill and child’s reaction
- Lower inhibitions (the “pay off”)

- Introduce sexualized talk, touch, play, nudity, porn, etc.
 Preserve the process

 Prevent disclosure, repeat victimization, encourage victim compliance/collaboration
How Sex Offenders “Lure” Children

N = 102 child molesters in OP TX

- “Accidental” touching 56% to 75%
- Cuddling to begin offending 32% to 55%

(Lang & Frenzel, 1988)
How Sex Offenders “Lure” Children

- Horseplay and wrestling 22% to 38%
- Backrubs and massage 18% to 38%

(Lang & Frenzel, 1988)
How Sex Offenders “Lure” Children

- Sex play as a game 44% to 59%
- Misrepresented moral standards
  “Everybody does it”
  “You will be a better lover.” 48% to 78%

(Lang & Frenzel, 1988)
Modus Operandi of Sexual Offenders

N = 23 adult sex offenders

Spent “a lot” of time + “extra attention” to victims. 96%

Told victim personal things 78%

Told victim they were special, played with them, treated them like adults.” 69%

(Leclerc, et al. 2005)
Modus Operandi of Sexual Offenders

- Did things child wanted to do 65%
- Child decided what they would do 52%
- Special rewards or privileges 43%
- Stuck up for victim w/ friends 22%
- Stuck up for child with parents 17%

(Leclerc, et al. 2005)
Strategic Behavior in Adolescent Sexual Offenses Against Children

- Found that tactics are more effective when combined.

(Leclerc & Tremblay, 2007)
Strategic Behavior in Adolescent Sexual Offenses Against Children

- Desensitizing enhances participation

- Emotional blackmail prevents disclosure

(Leclerc & Tremblay, 2007)
“Study and Befriend”

- “Everybody liked me and people were comfortable with my interactions with kids.”

- “I treated them like they were adults.”

- “I acted like a big kid.”

- “I complimented them and bought them things.”
“Study and Befriend”

- “I stuck up for them and helped them with their chores.”

- “I never disciplined them.”

- “I paid lots of attention to them and gave them lots of affection.”

- “Kids liked me and adults thought I was good with kids.”
Seduction of Children

- Engagement, desensitization and sexualization.
  - Study and befriend the child.
  - Develop a peer relationship or elevate the child to an “adult status” in the relationship.
Promote physical contact - “wrestling, hugging, tickling, kissing, massages, lap sitting and backrubs.”

Test child’s ability to “keep secrets.”

Expose child to sexual jokes and pornography
Avoiding Discovery

- Bribe, threaten or guilt trip child into protecting offender.
- Create a bond of friendship and loyalty.
- Divide and conquer, damage relationship with other adults.
- Make the child responsible for protecting the secret.
Distorted Attitudes

- Children are sexual.
- Children enjoy sexual activity.
- Children are not harmed by sexual activity with adults.
- Children can give consent and it can be mutual.
- It’s just my way of showing love.
- It’s educational for them.
- It’s just a game to play with them.