



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 2007

I22 The Role of Fantasy in Sexual Offending

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the role of sexual fantasy in the causation of deviant sexual behavior is not as strong as presented in the literature.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating how clinicians should reassess the general assumption in the treatment of sexual offenders that fantasy plays a causative role in sexually deviant behavior.

Theories in both criminal justice and psychology have stressed the importance of sexual fantasy both in the development of sexual offenders and as a component of their offenses. However, despite their acknowledged importance, there have been relatively few investigations of the actual content and evolution of these fantasies and their effect on the offense cycle of the offender. In the present study, ten convicted sexual offenders in an outpatient treatment program were interviewed to gain insight into the origin, content, and evolution of their sexual fantasies. A qualitative analysis of their responses yielded insight into the creation and motivations of sexual deviance.

Fantasy, Sexual Offending, Qualitative Analysis