



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 20??

I7 Stalking as an Element of Paraphilic Rape and Sexual Sadism

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After attending this presentation, attendees will be able to understand how stalking is linked to paraphilic (preferential) rape and sexual sadism.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by assisting in the identification of potential rape offenders.

Stalking is “a course of conduct directed at a specific person that involved repeated physical or visual proximity, nonconsensual communication, or verbal, written or implied threats.” Stalking is a combination of information gathering, rehearsal in fantasy, and intrusion through covert observation. Stalking is often associated with sex offenses. It has been described as instrumental i.e., that stalking, like other elements of criminal scripts simply represent the routinization of criminal decision making for obtaining the desired result of raping the victim.

This paper demonstrates that predatory stalking may be part of the script of paraphilic rape. Paraphilic disorders are characterized by “recurrent, intense, sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviors generally involving: nonhuman objects, the suffering or humiliation of oneself or one’s partner, or children or other nonconsenting persons (DSM-IV-TR 2000). Paraphilic rape is a controversial disorder. However, research indicates that among individuals who rape, there is a subcategory who have intense repetitive urges to commit rape from an early age. At the core of paraphilic rape is the recognition by the offender during the assault that his actions are nonconsensual. The recognition can happen in several ways: examples include the rapist’s attention to the victim’s reactions, his perpetrating against a stranger, or the use of weapons or a rape kit.

The rapes show a repetitive pattern of actions, as if they are scripts. Behavioral signs of ongoing rape fantasies may be seen in patterns of setting the victim up, initiating the attack, making comments during the assault, having the victim do or say particular things or perform certain acts in a certain order during the assault. These stalkers may derive a sense of power as well as sexual excitement through tracking their victims and anticipating and rehearsing their planned sexual attack. The stalker’s intent is not to alert the victim prior to the fantasized or planned attack. Stalking behaviors may not reveal the more sexually deviant intent behind it. The act of stalking can be an element of foreplay for these individuals, often as sexually exciting as the act of rape itself or even more so. The paraphilic rapist becomes stimulated by the fear and terror that he can instill in the woman through stalking. A number of case studies will be presented.

Stalking may be merely a way to seek out vulnerable victims. However, in some cases, the stalking behavior may be an element of paraphilic rape and sexual sadism. This may help to identify some offenders before they commit further act of rape.

Stalking, Paraphilia, Sexual Sadism