



Greetings!

Welcome to the Fall! Here in the Northeast United States where we are located, children are back at school, the leaves are changing color, and there is a chill in the air. It seems like a good time to bring you, below, our synopsis of a research-to-policy article. In this article, our Canadian colleague, Patrick Lussier, makes a case for utilizing an analytical framework that "shifts the focus from variables to individuals" in describing youth with sexual behavior problems so that policymakers can create societal responses to juvenile sex offending that are appropriate and sound.

In NEARI Press news, we are excited to present to you **our brand new hot-off-the-presses 2017-18 catalog that is online [here](#)**. It will also be arriving soon in its physical form to your homes and offices. We offer several new and revised books and booklets that we think you'll want to know about and purchase.

This past month, we also launched the NEARI Press and Training Center FREE 2017-18 Webinar Series. Check out the webinar poster below, and [on our website](#), to get more information. We look forward to seeing you on the webinars! We continue to seek sponsors for our webinar series so that we can keep the webinars free and accessible to as many clinicians and other professionals as possible. If you'd like to [become a sponsor](#), please see below or check [our website](#) for the list of benefits to you and how to sign up.

Did you know that we now [Tweet!](#)? Yes, NEARI Press and Training Center recently launched our presence on [Twitter](#). Follow us and we'll follow you! And don't forget to "Like" us on [Facebook](#) to get updates about all that we are doing.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you about the articles, authors, and topics you'd like us to cover in the NEARI Newsletter, our webinars, and our in-person trainings. Please contact Alisa at: aklein@neari.com if you have ideas and thoughts about the particular kinds of training you'd like to see NEARI Press and Training Center offer in the coming year.

Thank you for your interest in NEARI, and for the vital work that you do to keep children and adults safe from sexual harm,

Craig Latham, Executive Director, NEARI
Alisa Klein, Director, NEARI Press and Training Center

**This month, David S. Prescott and Alisa Klein examine the article:
“Juvenile Sex Offending Through a Developmental Life Course Criminology
Perspective: An Agenda for Policy and Research”**

AUTHORS

Patrick Lussier

(Please see below for full citation and abstract.)

THE QUESTION

Can developmental life course (DLC) criminology, a methodology that calls for sound empirical evidence in analyzing juvenile delinquency, serve as a framework to facilitate a paradigm shift towards the development of sensible policy in response to juvenile sexual offending?

THE RESEARCH

Traditionally, research and analysis around juveniles with sexual behavior problems (SBPs) has focused on the pathological traits of youth who have sexually abused, which does little to explain the origins and developmental course of their offending and could possibly lead policy makers to view all juveniles with SBPs as potential adult sexual offenders. Nor can the low rates of recidivism for juvenile sexual offending be reconciled with a traits-based approach.

In contrast, the developmental life course (DLC) criminology framework incorporates into its analysis past developmental antecedents (e.g. history of sexual and nonsexual delinquency; exposure to risk and protective factors at different developmental stages) of the juveniles and views the development of juvenile sex offending behaviors as a dynamic process. The DLC perspective recognizes that empirical evidence suggests that there is no “average” JSO. That is to say, the variations among juveniles with SPBs are prevalent enough that there is no one typological category that can accurately guide theoretical, research, and policy development around these youth. And so, the DLC framework calls for taking into account the heterogeneity of juveniles with SBPs and a need for simultaneous identification of the different developmental patterns of their offending – “a paradigm that shifts the focus from variables to individuals.”

Using a DLC approach, the author examined the current body of research on developmental parameters for juvenile sex offending, such as:

- Prevalence;
- Age of onset;
- Frequency;
- Persistence;
- Continuity into adulthood; and
- Versatility and specialization.

Further, the author identified two distinct juvenile sexual offending trajectories that are not currently taken into account in the development of policy, treatment models, and clinical assessment protocols: “adolescent-limited” (AL) youth, and the high-rate/slow-desisters. The risk factors such as puberty, peer influence, binge drinking, delinquency involvement, sexual arousal, and opportunity for sexual offending by the AL youth, are considered transitory and specific to adolescence, so that their offending does not reflect a pattern of overwhelming deviant sexual thoughts,

fantasies, or urges, nor deviant sexual preferences. AL youth are likely to desist from sexual offending quickly or even immediately. Because AL youth are hypothesized to be the vast majority of juveniles who have perpetrated a sexual offense, and they are not likely to re-offend sexually, it is important to develop policy approaches that reflect an understanding of this.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Current traits-based analysis of juveniles who have sexually offended can lead policy makers to view all juveniles as “potential adult sex offenders” and create policy responses accordingly. Because the DLC approach sheds light on the origins and developmental course of juvenile sexual offending over time, and provides concepts and processes that can inform us about the heterogeneity of the patterns of sexual offending among juveniles, it can more accurately inform policy makers about how to respond to juvenile sex offending than the current typology-based portrayal of all JSOs as potential adult sexual offenders. The author concludes that, indeed, the DLC criminology approach is an important organizing framework to use to guide policy responses to youth at risk to offend and for those who have committed sexual offenses.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONALS

For professionals working at the front lines, the most important element of Lussier’s paper may be that not only are adolescents who have abused a heterogeneous population, but many of them desist from further sexual abuse almost immediately. Likewise, assessors and treatment programs that rightly focus on building better, harm-free lives often focus more on the immediate future and risk for specific crimes without fully taking into account the slower desistance process that Lussier describes; some youth take longer to mature than others. To this end, professionals would be wise to keep in mind that not only do the majority of youth who abuse desist, but they often desist at different rates, and that not every rule violation indicates a lifetime of criminality.

Likewise, this paper observes – once again – that not all youth who abuse do so due to abuse-specific sexual interests. Professionals of the past were understandably on the lookout for evidence of persistent sexual deviance. This paper reminds us of the need for comprehensive assessment and understanding of each youth; they are not all the same.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FIELD

Early research efforts – like our assessment and treatment processes – focused on the most seemingly “pathological” aspects of youth who sexually abuse. This was to be expected at a time when people had little information to assist their strong desire to end abuse. This paper is a reminder that knowledge of strengths, assets, and other protective factors is vital in assessment-driven treatment. In fact, all of the published research has pointed to the continued need for focused inquiry and innovation in this area.

Finally, as research progresses, this paper shows that it is important to expand our research efforts beyond risk and protective factors to a deeper understanding of how these factors interact. Further, it points to the importance of understanding the processes underlying these factors and their interactions. In other words, it is vital to understand and appreciate the narrative unfolding of risk and protective factors in the lives of young people who abuse.

ABSTRACT

Current American policies and responses to juvenile sex offending have been criticized for being based on myths, misconceptions, and unsubstantiated claims. In spite of the criticism, no organizing framework has been proposed to guide policy development with respect to the prevention of juvenile sex offending. This article proposes a developmental life course (DLC) criminology perspective to investigate the origins, development, and termination of sex offending among youth. It also provides a review of the current state of knowledge regarding various parameters characterizing the development of sex offending (e.g., prevalence, age of onset, frequency, persistence, continuity in adulthood, and versatility). The review highlights some heterogeneity across these developmental parameters suggesting the presence of different sex offending patterns among youth. In fact, it is proposed that, based on the current knowledge, such heterogeneity can be accounted for by a dual taxonomy of adolescents involved in sexual offenses: (a) the adolescent-limited and (b) the high-rate/slow-desister. The DLC criminology approach and the dual taxonomy are proposed as organizing frameworks to conduct prospective longitudinal research to better understand the origins and development of sex offending and to guide policy development and responses to at-risk youth and those who have committed sexual offenses.

CITATION

Lussier, P. (2017). Juvenile Sex Offending Through a Developmental Life Course Criminology Perspective: An Agenda for Policy and Research. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, Vol. 29(1) 51–80.

[NEARI Newsletter Past Issues](#)

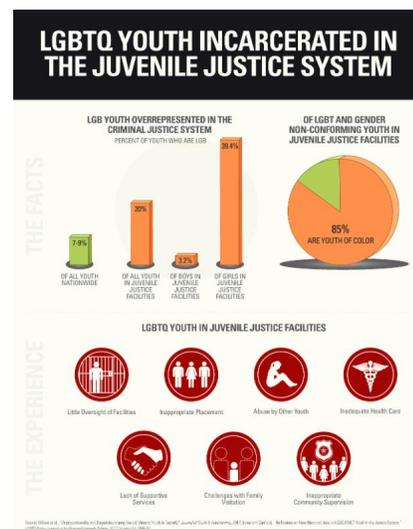


Unjust: LGBTQ Youth Incarcerated in the Juvenile Justice System

A new report from the Movement Advancement Project, Youth First, and Center for American Progress details the overrepresentation of, bias against, and abuse of LGBTQ youth in the juvenile justice system.

Unjust: LGBTQ Youth Incarcerated in the Juvenile Justice System

examines how LGBTQ youth who are incarcerated in juvenile detention and correctional facilities face bias in adjudication, and mistreatment and abuse in confinement facilities. The report found that LGBTQ youth lack supportive services when leaving the criminal and juvenile justice systems, often



forcing them back into negative interactions with law enforcement.

Given that nearly 40 percent of incarcerated girls identify as LGB and 85-90 percent of incarcerated LGBTQ youth are youth of color, it is crucial that any effort to change the way youth in the United States engage with the juvenile justice system must consider the unique experiences of LGBTQ youth.

Changes in California's Sex Offender Registration Laws

On October 6, California Governor Jerry Brown signed into law [SB 384](#) which, beginning July 1, 2021, will allow Tier One and Tier Two sex offenders in the State who have completed their mandatory minimum registration period (five and ten years, respectively) to be removed from the registry. The new law will change the current law which mandates these lower-tiered offenders, along with Tier Three offenders, to register for life. The *Los Angeles Times* reports on this new law [here](#).



NEARI PRESS AND TRAINING CENTER'S

FREE! 2017-2018 WEBINAR SERIES

2017

- SEPTEMBER 12 **Cultural Competence in Our Field: The Why, the What, the Where**
Presented by Robert S. Wright, MSW, RSW
- OCTOBER 17 **What's New with Pornography?**
Presented by Cordelia Anderson, MA
- NOVEMBER 14 **Youth with Sexual Behavior Problems: Practical Resources and Activities for Therapists Working with Youth and Their Families**
Presented by Rene McCreary, MS, LPC

2018

- JANUARY 16 **Gaining Multicultural Competence as a Sex Offender Treatment Provider**
Presented by Alejandro Leguizamo, Ph.D.

Webinar "Mini-Series" presented by the National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth

- FEBRUARY 13 **Clinical Assessment of Children with Problematic Sexual Behavior: An Overview**
Presented by Jane Silovsky, Ph.D.
- MARCH 13 **Assessment of Problematic Sexual Behavior in Children: What, When, and How**
Presented by Erin Taylor, Ph.D., Psychological Clinician
- APRIL 10 **Clinical Decision Making in Cases of Children with Problematic Sexual Behavior**
Presented by Shel Millington, M.A., L.P.C., PSB-CBT Trainer and Amanda Mitten, M.A., L.P.C., PSB-CBT Trainer
- MAY 15 **Growing Beyond: Working with Teenage Girls with Sexual Behavior Problems**
Presented by Susan L. Robinson, LICSW
- JUNE 12 **Working with LGBTQ Youth with Sexual Behavior Problems**
Presented by Robert S. Wright, MSW, RSW

Earn Continuing Education Credits!

Over nine months, we present a slate of nationally-recognized authors, researchers, and practitioners who provide cutting-edge information and training for clinicians. Each month, hundreds of clinicians and other professionals from around the world participate in our webinars to learn from our illustrious presenters. **JOIN US!**

All webinars take place from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Eastern time

To learn more and register:
www.nearipress.org/webinars

Become a Sponsor for NEARI Press and Training Center's 2017-18 Webinar Series!

Please help us to continue to provide our innovative webinar series for FREE by becoming a sponsor of the series. To thank you for becoming a sponsor, we will acknowledge you in our promotional materials and on each webinar throughout the series. We will send you two of NEARI Press's popular titles: *Current Applications* and *Current Perspectives* (retail value of \$149), or two other books if you already have these, and guarantee you a seat in each webinar in the 2017-2018 series (organizations are guaranteed 15 seats). We will also do your monthly registration for you!

Sponsorship is \$98 for individuals and \$250 for organizations.

To become a sponsor, please visit our website: www.nearipress.org/webinars, or Email: info@nearipress.org, or Call: 413.540.0712 x14

[NEARI Press and Training Center Online Courses](#)

[Become a Sponsor of Our 2017-18 Webinar Series!](#)



Understanding Children's Sexual Behaviors - From Natural and Healthy to Disturbed

By: Toni Cavanagh Johnson, Ph.D.

Duration: 3-4 hours; CE Credits: 4

Engaging Bystanders in Sexual Violence Prevention

By: Joan Tabachnick

Duration: 1-2 hours; CE Credits: 2

Current Practice for Treating Adolescents Who Have Sexually Abused

By: David S. Prescott, LICSW

Duration: 3-4 hours; CE Credits: 4

Stopping Sexual Abuse Through Intervention with Sexually Abusive Youth

By: Steve Bengis, Ed.D., L.C.S.W.

Duration: 4-5 hours; CE Credits: 5

Balancing Acts: Keeping Children Safe in Congregations

By Reverend Debra Haffner & Joan Tabachnick

Duration: 3-4 hours; CE Credits: 4

First Responders: Responding to Sexual Assault Disclosures

by Jamie Suvak, L.M.H.C.

Duration: 1-2 hours; CE Credits: 2

Learn more about our Online Courses



NEARI PRESS AND TRAINING CENTER'S

FREE! 2017-2018 WEBINAR SERIES

Earn Continuing Education Credits!

Over nine months, we present a slate of nationally-recognized authors, researchers, and practitioners who provide cutting-edge information and training for clinicians. Each month, hundreds of clinicians and other professionals from around the world participate in our webinars to learn from our illustrious presenters. JOIN US!

All webinars take place from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Eastern time

To learn more and register: www.nearipress.org/webinars

Become a Sponsor for NEARI Press and Training Center's 2017-18 Webinar Series!

Please help us to continue to provide our innovative webinar series for FREE by becoming a sponsor of the series. To thank you for becoming a sponsor, we will acknowledge you in our promotional materials and on each webinar throughout the series. We will send you one of NEARI Press's popular titles: Current Applications and Current Perspectives (retail value of \$149), or two other books if you already have those, and guarantee you a seat in each webinar in the 2017-2018 series (organizations are guaranteed 15 seats). We will also do your monthly registration for you!

Sponsorship is \$98 for individuals and \$250 for organizations.

To become a sponsor, please visit our website: www.nearipress.org/webinars, or Email: info@nearipress.org, or Call: 413.540.0712 x14

Year	Month	Topic	Presenter
2017	SEPTEMBER 12	Cultural Competence in Our Field: The Why, the What, the Where	Presented by Robert S. Wright, WSW, RSW
	OCTOBER 17	What's New with Pornography?	Presented by Cordelia Anderson, MA
	NOVEMBER 14	Youth with Sexual Behavior Problems: Practical Resources and Activities for Therapists Working with Youth and Their Families	Presented by Riene McCreary, MS, LPC
2018	JANUARY 16	Gaining Multicultural Competence as a Sex Offender Treatment Provider	Presented by Alejandra Legazarriz, Ph.D.
	FEBRUARY 13	Clinical Assessment of Children with Problematic Sexual Behavior: An Overview	Presented by Jane Silovsky, Ph.D.
	MARCH 13	Assessment of Problematic Sexual Behavior in Children: What, When, and How	Presented by Erin Taylor, Ph.D., Psychological Clinician
	APRIL 10	Clinical Decision Making in Cases of Children with Problematic Sexual Behavior	Presented by Shel Willington, MA, LPC, PSB-CBT Trainer and Amanda Vinter, MA, LPC, PSB-CBT Trainer
	MAY 15	Growing Beyond: Working with Teenage Girls with Sexual Behavior Problems	Presented by Susan L. Robinson, LICSW
JUNE 12	Working with LGBTQ Youth with Sexual Behavior Problems	Presented by Robert S. Wright, WSW, RSW	

Please consider becoming a sponsor of our exciting 2017-2018 NEARI Press and Training Center Webinar series. We have a great lineup of nationally recognized authors presenting their workbooks, research, and approaches to working with youth with sexual behavior problems.

For \$98 as an individual, or \$250 as an organization, we will guarantee you up to 14 seats for the webinar **AND** you have access to **FREE CE credits**. We do all of the work to sign you up each month, and as a thank you for your support, we also offer you two free NEARI Press books. We will proudly publicize your sponsorship in all of our promotional literature and on the webinars themselves.

For more information or to sign up, visit our website at www.nearipress.org OR contact Diane Langelier at 413.540.0712 x14, email info@nearipress.org.

Learn more about becoming a Webinar Series Sponsor



NEARI Press and Training Center

Programming and resources for at-risk youth and the people who work with them for the prevention of sexual abuse

Email: info@nearipress.org

Office: 413.540.0712 x14

Office Fax: 413.540.1915



Visit our website

[Website](#) | [Become a Sponsor](#) | [About Us](#) | [Bookstore](#) | [Links](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Please email us at info@neari.com or call us at 413.540.0712, X35 to let us know if you have a question or a topic you would like us to cover.

**We value your trust. We will not sell or give
your contact information to any other organization.**