

Juvenile Sex Offenders: Attachment, Narcissism, Aggression and Cognitive Distortions

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Abstract

- This presentation will address attachment issues, narcissism, psychopathy, aggression and cognitive distortions of juvenile sex offenders in treatment. Brief literature review of such concepts and their therapeutic considerations for juvenile sex offenders will be focused on.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe concepts of attachment, narcissism, psychopathy, aggression and cognition as they pertain to personality development of juvenile sex offenders.
2. Relate, connect and describe how basic tenets in sex offender treatment (e.g., thinking errors, lack of empathy, anger, poor impulse control, poor decision-making, offense cycle, maintenance behaviors, etc.) are related to attachment, narcissism, psychopathy, aggression and cognition, which collectively contribute to personality development or lack thereof.
3. Articulate therapeutic considerations which address or target such concepts in juvenile sex offender treatment.

Basic Concepts in Juvenile Sex
Offender Treatment Program (JSOTP)

- Informed Consent
- Coercion
- Legal & Illegal Sexual Behaviors
- Problem Identification & Goal Setting
- Impulse Control
- Anger Management
- Thinking Errors & Corrective Measures
- Complete Disclosure

Basic Concepts in JSOTP (continued)

- Victim Impact Awareness & Empathy
- Boundaries
- Crossing Barriers to Sexual Offending
(Motivational, Internal, External & Victim
Resistance Barriers).
- Maintenance Behaviors & Grooming Behavior
- Maintenance & Offense Cycles

Basic Concepts in JSOTP (continued)

- Inappropriate Sexual Fantasies, Impulse
Control & Arousal Control Methods, Healthy
Sexual Fantasies, & Positive Sexuality.
- Relapse Prevention Plan, Safety & Supervision
Plans
- Trauma Resolution, Validation, Empathy &
Developing a Healthy Lifestyle.

Basic Concepts in JSOTP (continued)

- Clarification / Apology Letters to Victims
- Building Barriers to Sexual Offending Behaviors.
- Letter to Self
- Human Sexuality Education (STI/STD, contraceptives, cost of raising a child, etc.).
- Putting it together.
- Discharge Planning & Closure.

Multi-Family Group Counseling

2-hour once a month multifamily group counseling designed for parent(s) and/or guardian(s) in order to comply with the guidelines according to the Family Code, Chapter 54. 0405. This chapter states:

"54.0405. CHILD PLACED ON PROBATION FOR CONDUCT CONSTITUTING SEXUAL OFFENSE. A court that requires as a condition of probation that a child attend psychological counseling under Subsection (a) may order the parent or guardian of the child to:

- (1) attend four sessions of instruction with an individual or organization specified by the court relating to:
 - (A) sexual offenses;
 - (B) family communication skills;
 - (C) sex offender treatment;
 - (D) victims' rights;
 - (E) parental supervision; and
 - (F) appropriate sexual behavior; and
- (2) during the period the child attends psychological counseling, participate in monthly treatment groups conducted by the child's treatment provider relating to the child's psychological counseling"

Dawson, R. (2012). Texas Juvenile Law, 8th ed. Texas Juvenile Justice Department, pp 46-47.

Multi-Family Group Counseling (cont)

Instructional modules using Healthy Families (Kahn, T.J., 2011) treatment workbook and selected flyers:

- **Instruction (Module) 1** – *Understanding the Legal System* (Chapter 2-Healthy Families), *Sexual Offenses* (Chapter 1-Pathways), and *victims' rights* (selected flyers from the Harris County District of Attorney's Office, and the National Center for Victims of Crime [NCVC]).
- **Instruction (Module) 2** – *Understanding the Assessment Process* (Chapter 4- Healthy Families), and *Understanding the Treatment Process and Sex Offender Treatment* (Chapters 5 & Appendix-Healthy Families).
- **Instruction (Module) 3** - *Appropriate Sexual Behaviors* (Common Questions, Chapter 3 – Healthy Families), and *Family Communication Skills* (Chapter 7-Healthy Families).
- **Instruction (Module) 4** – *Parental Supervision* & Chaperone Training (Chapter 9 – Healthy Families), *Discharge Planning & Aftercare* (Chapter 10 – Healthy Families).

Towards an integrated approach to JSOTP

- CBT (Gold standard in SOTP).
- Family Systems
- Collaborative practices (with Probation Department, Court, School/ISDs as needed via Probation Department, etc.)
- Spirituality
- Psychodynamic & Neo-Jungian approach
- Heuristic: whatever works that's legal & ethical.

Basic Definition of Child / Youth

- Generally unregulated or lacking in self-regulation, thus need help in regulation of thinking, affect and behavior.
- Unregulation or dysregulation is unconscious-- not only on a personal way -- but **on a much deeper collective/archetypal way**... i.e., inheritance from our collective humanity and existence.

UNCONSCIOUSNESS

- One of the toughest roots of all evil is unconsciousness, therefore, it is the magnum opus (i.e., great work) of humans, especially counselors and educators to make the unconscious conscious.



Four Lines of Development of Personality Integration

- Object relations (Attachment)
- Narcissism-Ego
- Aggression
- Cognition

Attachment

(Object Relations Line of Development)

- Fusion and Dependency
- Attachment Theory of John Bowlby.
- Simply means BONDING (emotional bonding).
- Attachment figure... Center is out there.
- "I need to connect... maybe it's you that can fulfill me."
- Virtue: Temperance & Love
- Alchemical Representation: Water
- Archetypal Image: Lover
- **Therapeutic Consideration(s)**: Provide consistent & firm Tender, Love and Care. Provide consistent regulation of depressive affect and/or mood swings.

Narcissism

(Ego Line of Development)

- Fusion & Idealization.... Independence & Sovereignty
- Admiration & Self-Aggrandizement
- "Admire me because I got it going on.... I don't have to work hard, can't you see that I'm special & great?"
- Characterized by incompetence & ineptitude,
- Virtue: Justice
- Alchemical Representation: Earth
- Archetypal Image: King/Queen
- **Therapeutic Consideration(s)**: Provide lots of compassion and most of all help person develop competencies in various areas.

Psychopathy

(Ego Line of Development)

- Fusion and Submission with Fear... Independence & Sovereignty
- "What I say is Law and you must obey"
- Sociopath & Antisocial
- Need to be feared & is motivated by other people's Fear (gets high on victim's fear).
- Virtue: Justice
- Alchemical Representation: Earth
- Archetypal Image: King/Queen... God imago
- **Therapeutic Consideration(s):** Provide lots of compassion and most of all help person develop a sense of humanity and less projective identification with the god complex.

Aggression

(Boundary Delineation & Competency Line of Development)

- Protection, Assertiveness & Active Differentiation
- Boundaries & Competencies
- Ability to work and withstand pain.
- Virtue: Courage
- Alchemical Representation: Fire
- Archetypal Image: Warrior
- **Therapeutic Consideration(s):** Provide regulation of fiery affect (anger & rage: anger management), teach person how to respect boundaries, learn how to talk or fight assertively, and enjoy the "fruits of labor & life."

Cognition

(Cognitive Line of Development)

- Perception, thinking, language, judgment & memory.
- Detachment
- Discernment, Letting Go & Passive Differentiation
- (detachment, death, resurrection/rebirth)
- Virtue: Prudence (Wisdom)
- Alchemical Representation: Air
- Archetypal Image: Magician
- **Therapeutic Consideration(s):** Provide regulation of airy-fairy flights of ideas & fantasies; learn thought stopping/switching & correct thinking errors; help person develop compassionate affect & relatedness.

Jung’s Universal Man/Woman vs. Social Construction’s Multicultural Man/Woman (Archetypes vs. Cultural Diffusion)

- Archetypes - instincts; structures in the psyche; the myth-forming structural element found in the collective unconscious. Innate predisposition.
- Cultural Diffusion – transmission of knowledge & behavior via human migration & cultural transmission.

Jung’s Universal Man/Woman vs. Social Construction’s Multicultural Man/Woman (Archetypes vs. Cultural Diffusion) - cont

- Archetypal Mythologems (myth-forming structural elements) are independent of all traditions.
- Psychological Law: whenever a phenomenon is found to be characteristic of all human community, then it is an expression of the archetypal collective unconscious.

Archetypes vs. Cultural Diffusion – cont
BEHAVIORAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Maternal Bonding
 2. Sexual Mating
 3. Dominance Striving
 4. Home Building
- Satisfy 3 Critical Biological Criteria of:
1. Universality.
 2. Continuity.
 3. Evolutionary Stability.

The Universal Man/Woman vs.
Multicultural Man/Woman
(Archetypes vs. Cultural Diffusion) - cont

- Both archetypally-determined behaviors & culturally diffused/transmitted behaviors occur.
- However, there's a strong bias for phenomena to diffuse readily and more lastingly if they are archetypally determined.

Archetypes: How to recognize

- From discovering particular archetypal motifs and stories, we begin to explore ways in which we may find our own identity and purpose.
- Our sources for discovering such archetypal motifs and stories may be as ancient and timeless patterns playing out in our lives and the lives of others (autochthonous revival).
- We must allow ourselves to sharpen our senses and widen/deepen perceptual field so that we may discern archetypal patterns in the flow of energy in each and everyone of us.
- We start by looking at and talking honestly about what we are drawn to (either positively or negatively), fascinated or repulsed by, called to repeatedly, and/or cannot live without.
- Once we recognize and have a respectful relationship with them, then we help ourselves/others discern a deeper understanding of ourselves/others, allowing us to live more authentically, fully, with a sense of greater wholeness and enlargement of personality, hence expressing one's true identity.

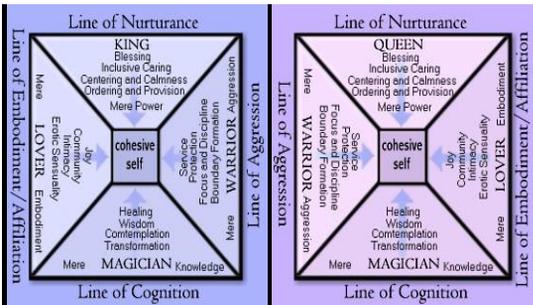
Archetypes: How to recognize

- Principle of ENANTIODROMIA or polar opposites (Jung & Heraclitus): Jung's Personality Type system which was expanded to Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) is based on such a principle. However, Antonia "Toni" Wolff and C. G. Jung looked into the polarity of opposites in the psyche and proposed quadrature of the psyche. Toni Wolff expanded that such quadrature are paired opposites, with their corresponding even in our paths to identity and fulfillment.
- Such polarities and quadrature of the psyche provide insights into our ontological (i.e., nature of being) make-up, thus providing a better understanding of, not only of our sameness, but of our profound differences. And by recognizing such differences we mitigate unconscious defense mechanisms, in particular that of projection or projective identification. Finding ourselves in this spectrum of polarities allows us to discern our sameness and differences, our strengths and limitations, and shadows and enlightened understanding of ourselves.
- **The work of Robert Moore, PhD, will be highlighted in this presentation to elucidate the tension of archetypal opposites in the quadrated psyche, along with corresponding archetypal longings and meanings.**

Structural Psychoanalysis & Integrative Psychotherapy: Robert Moore, PhD

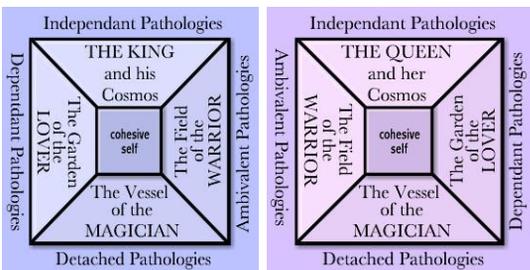
- The Four Developmental Lines in the Journey to the Center: Maturation Toward the Psychological and Spiritual Cardinal Virtues:
 1. Line of Embodiment & Affiliation.
 2. Line of Nurture.
 3. Line of Aggression.
 4. Line of Cognition.

The Four Developmental Lines in the Journey to the Center: Maturation Toward the Psychological and Spiritual Cardinal Virtues

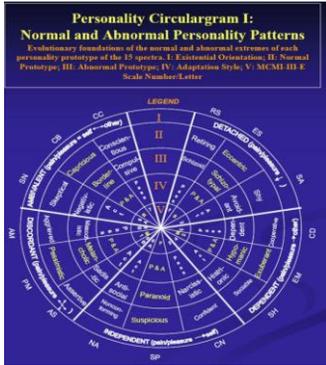


Arrows indicate movement toward integration and cohesion.

The Geography of Inner Space in Relation to Theodore Millon's Mapping of Psychopathology



The Millon Fifteen Personality Styles/Disorders and Subtypes
 (http://www.millon.net/taxonomy/index.htm)



The Four Developmental Lines in the Journey to the Center:
 Maturation Toward the Psychological and Spiritual Cardinal Virtues

• **Lover (Object-relations line of Devt. / Dependence)**

The mythic image of the Lover is an instinctual line of development of **sexuality, affiliation, intimacy, embodiment and joy**. If you do not have a connection with this, then you do not have any fun. No matter how smart or how caring you are there is not "dance" in your life.

The Lover is the (wo)man in touch with her/his feelings, the (wo)man who expresses her/his joy, pain, anger, fear, spontaneously. (S)he is, most definitely, not someone who bottles up or covers over what (s)he feels.

- **RESTRAINT or TEMPERANCE**
- **Pathologies:** Borderline Personality, Histrionic Personality, and Dependent Personality D/O.

The Four Developmental Lines in the Journey to the Center:
 Maturation Toward the Psychological and Spiritual Cardinal Virtues

• **King/Queen (Nurturant Line of Devt. / Self-concept-Independence)**

The mythic images of the King and Queen, in males and females, represent **an instinctual line** having to do with **nurturing and centering** in the human personality. This Royal line of development has to do with inclusive nurturing and blessing. It is critical for the self. Without it, you are not calm, you are not centered, you do not have a vision, you do not have a sense of "I am" and "I want." A lot of men want to know what they want but cannot find it. That is because of a lack of development of this Royal line.

- **SOVEREIGNTY (Justice).** Provides vision and decision.
- **Pathologies:** Narcissistic Personality, Antisocial Personality D/O.

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