Assessing Emotional Congruence with Children in Sexual Offenders against Children

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29th Annual Research and Treatment Conference of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, Phoenix, Arizona, October 21st, 2010

Acknowledgements

- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)

- Facilitators & Intellectual Contributors: Shelley Brown, Terry Chaplin, Yolanda Fernandez, Adelle Forth, Brian Grant, Grant Harris, James Horley, Lara Karaian, Jan Looman, Ed Peacock, & Marnie Rice

Overview

- Definition
- Hypotheses
- Methodology
- Results
- Limitations & Implications

Emotional Congruence with Children (ECWC)

Finkelhor (1984)

- *Emotional congruence* a nonsexual motivation for the initiation of sexual offending behaviour

- A relationship between offender and child due, in part, to a perceived fit between the offender's emotional needs and the child's characteristics
    - perceived fit due to child-like self-image; low self-efficacy/self-esteem; past abuse history
    - emotional needs are expressed as desire to relate to children, to have companionship/love, or to work out childhood issues

- Children are a source of emotional gratification for individual

Emotional Congruence with Children (ECWC)

Fixated Type (Groth et al., 1982)

- Identify with children & experience self as a child
- Psychologically immature
- Social attraction to children

Interpersonal Type (Knight & Prentky, 1990)

- Large amount of time spent with children
- Seek interpersonal, friend-type relationships with children

Empirical Trends

- "High Deviance" = High ECWC

- Predictive of Sexual Recidivism

Implicit Cognition & ECWC

- Assessing implicit cognitions: Implicit Association Test (Greenwald, McGhee, & Schwartz, 1998)

- Extending empirical understanding beyond self-report

- Existent IAT research with sex offenders against children

- Implicit emotional congruence with children?

Current Study

- Two IATs and self-report measures used to assess implicit and explicit emotional congruence with children

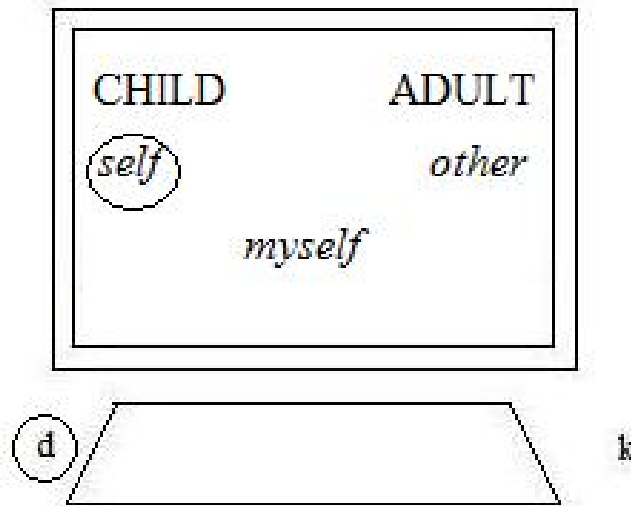- Assess strength of convergent validity between measures

Method

Participants

- Sexual Offenders against Children (SOC)
  - 13 extrafamilial SOC; 8 intrafamilial SOC
  - inclusion criteria: one victim 13 years of age or younger; relationship to victim
- Non-sex Offenders (NSO) & Sexual Offenders against Adults (SOA)
  - 17 NSO; 9 SOA
  - inclusion criterion: no prior/index convictions for or self-reported sexual offenses against victims less than 16 years of age
- Student Controls
  - 54 male Carleton University psychology students

- Sampling Sources: forensic psychiatric hospital, federal correctional institutions, and Carleton University
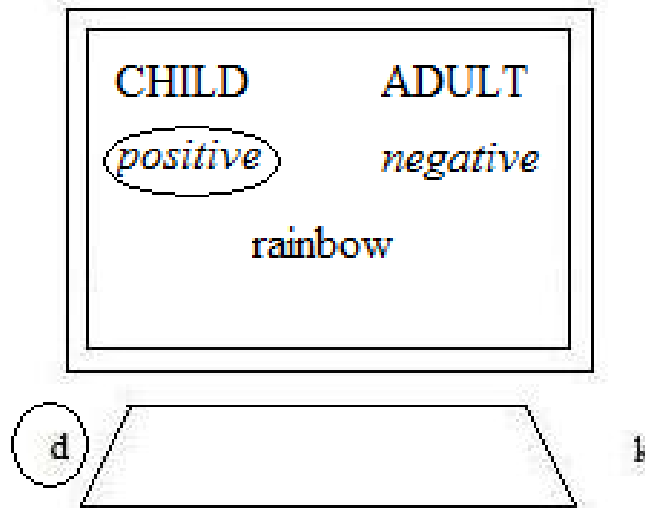
Method

Measures

- Child Identification IAT
  - Stimuli Used: Words; Images of adult and child male faces

Method

Measures

- Child Evaluation IAT
  - Stimuli Used: Words; Images of adult and child female and male faces

Method

Measures

- Children and Sex Questionnaire's Emotional Congruence with Children Scale (CSQ:ECWC; Beckett, 1987)
  - Factors: Positive Affect from Children, Special Relationship with Children, and Preference for Relationships with Children (Waldron et al., 2006)

- Child Identification Scale-Revised (CIS-R; Wilson, 1999)
  - Factors: Start Life Over, Immaturity, Mentoring, Loner, Enjoys Children's Activities, Longing for Childhood, Empathy for Children, Abused as a Child

Results

Child Identification IAT

		Child Identification IAT	
Group	*n*	*M(SD)*	Cohen's *d* (95% CI)
SOC-E	13	.35(.32)	
SOC-I	8	-.06(.27)	1.36**
			(0.38, 2.33)
NSO/SOA	24	.11(.41)	0.59†
			(-0.10, 1.28)
Students	54	.11(.41)	0.58†
			(-0.04, 1.19)

†*p* < .10. ***p* < .01.

Results

Child Evaluation IAT

| Group | Child Evaluation IAT | | |
	n	$M(SD)$	Cohen's d (95% CI)
SOC-E	13	.02(.46)	
SOC-I	8	-.22(.30)	0.59
			(-0.31, 1.49)
NSO/SOA	24	-.02(.51)	0.08
			(-0.59, 0.76)
Students	54	-.05(.43)	0.16
			(-0.45, 0.77)

Results

Children and Sex Questionnaire

Measure	SOC-E (n = 13)			SOC-I (n = 8)		NSO/SOA (n = 26)		Students (n = 54)	
	M(SD)	M(SD)	Cohen's d (95% CI)	M(SD)	Cohen's d (95% CI)	M(SD)	Cohen's d (95% CI)		
CSQ: ECWC Total Score	5.08 (1.55)	2.81 (1.99)	1.42** (0.44, 2.40)	4.42 (2.01)	0.52 (-0.16, 1.19)	4.50 (1.13)	0.13 (-0.48, 0.73)		
F1: Positive Affect from Children	16.23 (8.27)	4.75 (6.58)	1.49** (0.50, 2.48)	13.15 (10.00)	0.33 (-0.34, 0.99)	11.26 (6.26)	0.74* (0.13, 1.36)		
F2: Special Relationship with Children	6.85 (6.63)	4.5 (5.53)	0.38 (-0.51, 1.26)	6.85 (6.16)	0.00 (-0.67, 0.67)	7.59 (4.08)	-0.16 (-0.77, 0.45)		
F3: Preference for Relationships with Children	4.00 (2.65)	1.13 (2.10)	1.17* (0.22, 2.11)	2.46 (2.18)	0.66† (-0.02, 1.34)	1.65 (1.58)	1.29** (0.64, 1.93)		

†p < .10. * p < .05. **p < .01.

Results

Child Identification Scale-Revised

Measure	SOC-E (n = 13)	SOC-I (n = 8)		NSO/SOA (n = 26)		Students (n = 54)	
	M(SD)	M(SD)	Cohen's d (95% CI)	M(SD)	Cohen's d (95% CI)	M(SD)	Cohen's d (95% CI)
CIS-R Total Score	21.31 (6.73)	16.63 (7.74)	0.66 (-0.25, 1.56)	18.04 (8.09)	0.43 (-0.25, 1.10)	15.76 (5.75)	0.93** (0.31, 1.56)
F1: Start Life Over	5.16 (2.03)	2.63 (2.26)	1.19* (0.24, 2.15)	3.42 (2.39)	0.76* (0.08, 1.45)	2.39 (2.02)	1.37*** (0.72, 2.02)
F2: Immaturity	4.08 (2.87)	2.25 (2.71)	0.65 (-0.25, 1.55)	1.73 (2.07)	1.00* (0.29, 1.70)	1.11 (1.27)	1.76*** (1.09, 2.44)
F4: Loner	3.23 (0.83)	2.38 (1.77)	0.67 (-0.23, 1.58)	1.65 (1.29)	1.36*** (0.63, 2.09)	0.94 (1.28)	1.89*** (1.21, 2.58)
F8: Abused as a Child	1.85 (0.80)	1.13 (0.99)	0.82† (-0.09, 1.74)	1.58 (1.03)	0.28 (-0.39, 0.95)	0.68 (0.72)	1.59*** (0.93, 2.25)

†$p < .10$. * $p < .05$. **$p < .01$. ***$p < .001$.

- Nonsignificant, small to medium group mean differences for Mentoring, Enjoys Children's Activities, Longing for Childhood, and Empathy for Children factors

Results

Convergent Validity

Measure	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. Child ID IAT	-	.33**	.11	.11	.19†	.14	.18†	.18†	.03
		(99)	(99)	(99)	(99)	(99)	(99)	(99)	(99)
2. Child Evaluation IAT		-	-.01	.05	.06	-.12	-.07	-.04	-.15
			(99)	(99)	(99)	(99)	(99)	(99)	(99)
3. CSQ:ECWC Total Score			-	.92**	.68**	.65**	.44**	.54**	.21*
				(101)	(101)	(101)	(101)	(101)	(101)
4. CSQ:ECWC Factor One				-	.60**	.60**	.40**	.54**	.21*
					(101)	(101)	(101)	(101)	(101)
5. CSQ:ECWC Factor Three					-	.63**	.59**	.35**	.41**
						(101)	(101)	(101)	(101)
6. CIS-R Total Score						-	.80**	.77**	.48**
							(101)	(101)	(101)
7. CIS-R Factor One							-	.76**	.50**
								(101)	(101)
8. CIS-R Factor Two								-	.55**
									(101)
9. CIS-R Factor Four									-

†$p < .10$. **$p < .01$.

Results

- Are measures of ECWC related to risk of sexual recidivism?

Measure	Static-99		Stable 2007 Total Score		Stable 2007 Emotional Identification Item	
	All SOC	SOC-E	All SOC	SOC-E	All SOC	SOC-E
Child Identification IAT	.05	.23	-.22	-.41	-.22	.11
	(20)	(10)	(18)	(9)	(12)	(9)
Child Evaluation IAT	.07	.31	.09	.40	-.11	.18
	(20)	(10)	(18)	(9)	(12)	(9)
CSQ:ECWC Total Score	.41†	.27	.54*	.59†	.23	.30
	(20)	(10)	(18)	(9)	(12)	(9)
CIS-R Total Score	.26	.41	.33	.33	.57*	.51
	(20)	(10)	(18)	(9)	(12)	(9)

†$p < .10$. *$p < .05$.

Discussion

- Encouraging support for implicit assessment of emotional congruence with children

- Limitations include student comparison group, Type II error, demographic differences

- Future research directions