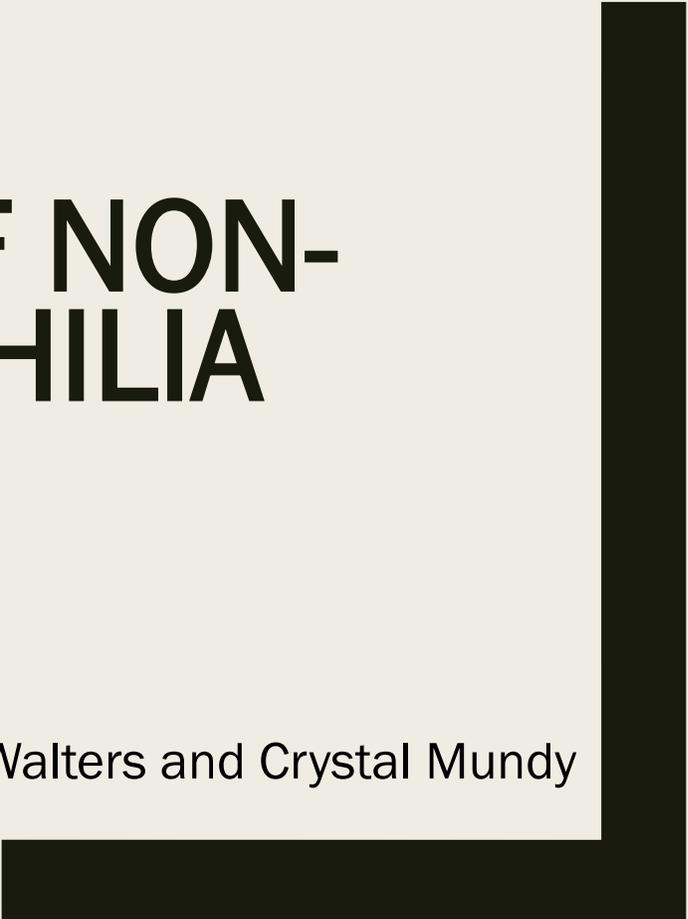# LAY PERCEPTIONS OF NON-OFFENDING PEDOPHILIA

Aravis Walters and Crystal Mundy

Non-offending Pedophilia

- Pedophilic disorder vs. sexual attraction to children
  - *4% of German men reported sexual fantasies about children (N = 8,718)* *(Dombert et al., 2016)*
- Also known as
  - *Minor Attracted Persons (MAP)*
  - *Persons With Pedophilia (PWP)*
  - *Non-offending Pedophile (NOP)*

Overview

- Why this research is important
- Previous Literature
- The Present Study
- Methods
- Hypotheses
- Results
- Implications

Why this research is important

- Stigma
- Mental health issues associated with stigma-related stress
- Poor support systems can lead to alienation and difficulty coping with attraction

Previous Literature

- Stigma towards NOPs vs. various disorders (Jahnke et al., 2015)

- Stigma towards pedophiles vs. other mental disorders (Feldman & Crandall, 2007)

- Pedophilic offenders vs. other offenders (Kernsmith, Craun, & Foster, 2009)

- Effects of participant personality on stigma (Butler, 2000; Fernandez, 2001; Jackson & Poulson, 2005)

The Present Study

- Comparing social distance towards a NOP and sex offenders
  - *Convicted rapist*
  - *Convicted offending pedophile (CSA)*
  - *Neutral control*

- Implicit Theories of Pedophilic Personality Scale (ITPPS)

- Participant Personality Traits

Methods

Participants

- 327 undergraduate students at UBC Okanagan
  - *75 men (M = 19.75, SD = 1.69) and 251 women (M = 19.43, SD = 1.57)*
  - *Most had completed at most first year*
- 378 participants recruited through Reddit
  - *222 men, and 156 women*
  - *Most were between 22-26 years of age*
  - *Most had completed some university/college*

Vignettes

- You meet up with a friend and they introduce you to their friend **Jane (gender: female).** You spend a couple hours chatting over coffee. The next day, your friend tells you that **Jane is sexually attracted to children but stresses that she hasn't committed any offenses** and is trying to find a place in the community (**criminal history: none—NOP).**

Social Distance (Jahnke et al., 2015)

- α = .82
- How do you feel about interacting with the individual in the vignette?
  - *Would have this person as my friend*
  - *Would accept this person in my neighborhood*
  - *Would accept this person as a colleague at work*
  - *Would talk to this person*
  - *This person should be incarcerated*
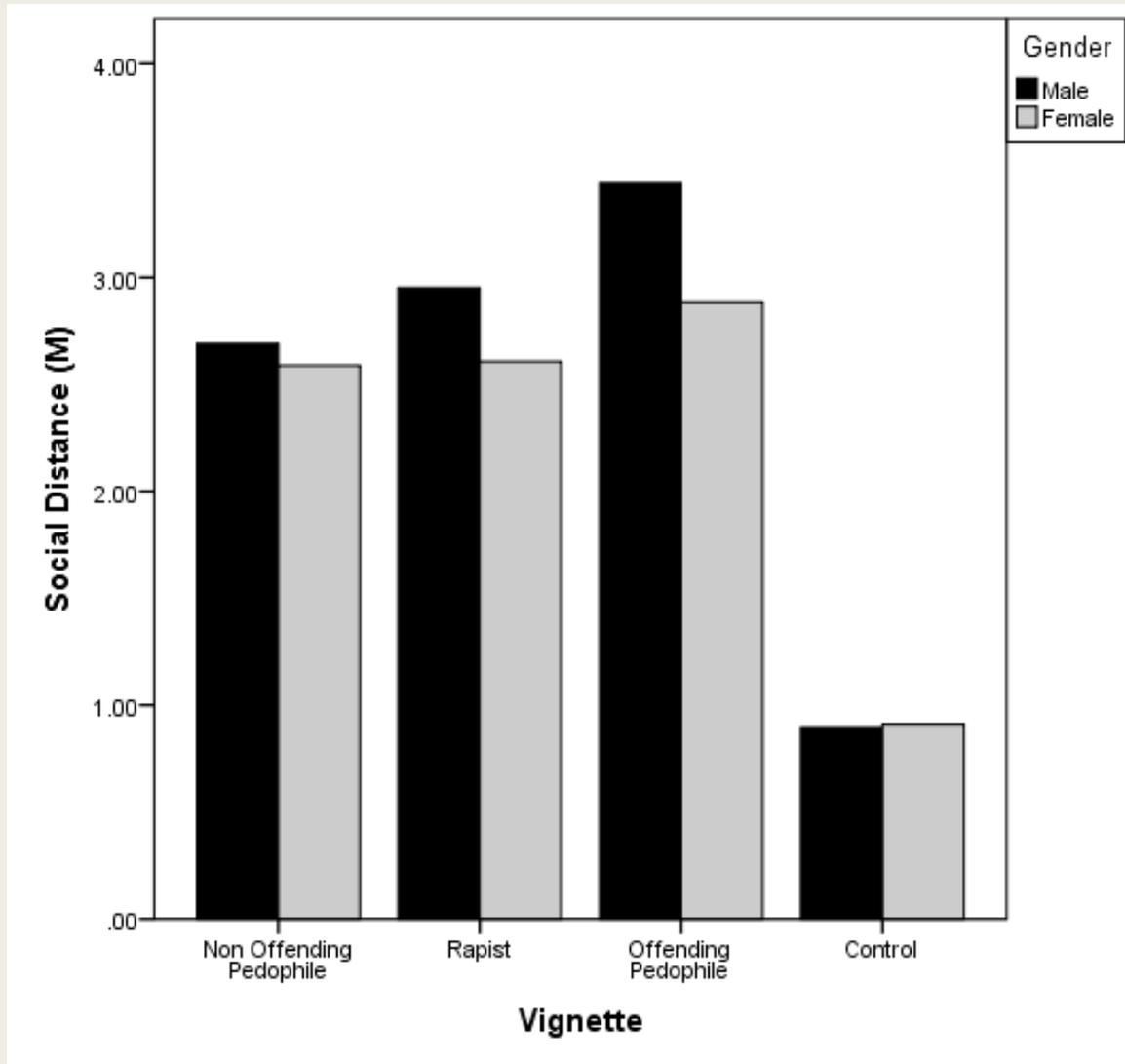 - *This person should be better dead*

Hypotheses

Criminal history of the individual would have a significant effect on social distance rating

A woman would be viewed more favourably than a man

The label of 'pedophile' would make a difference in reported social distance

ITPPS would replicate well

Participant Openness and Agreeableness and Positive Personality Factor would predict lower social distance scores
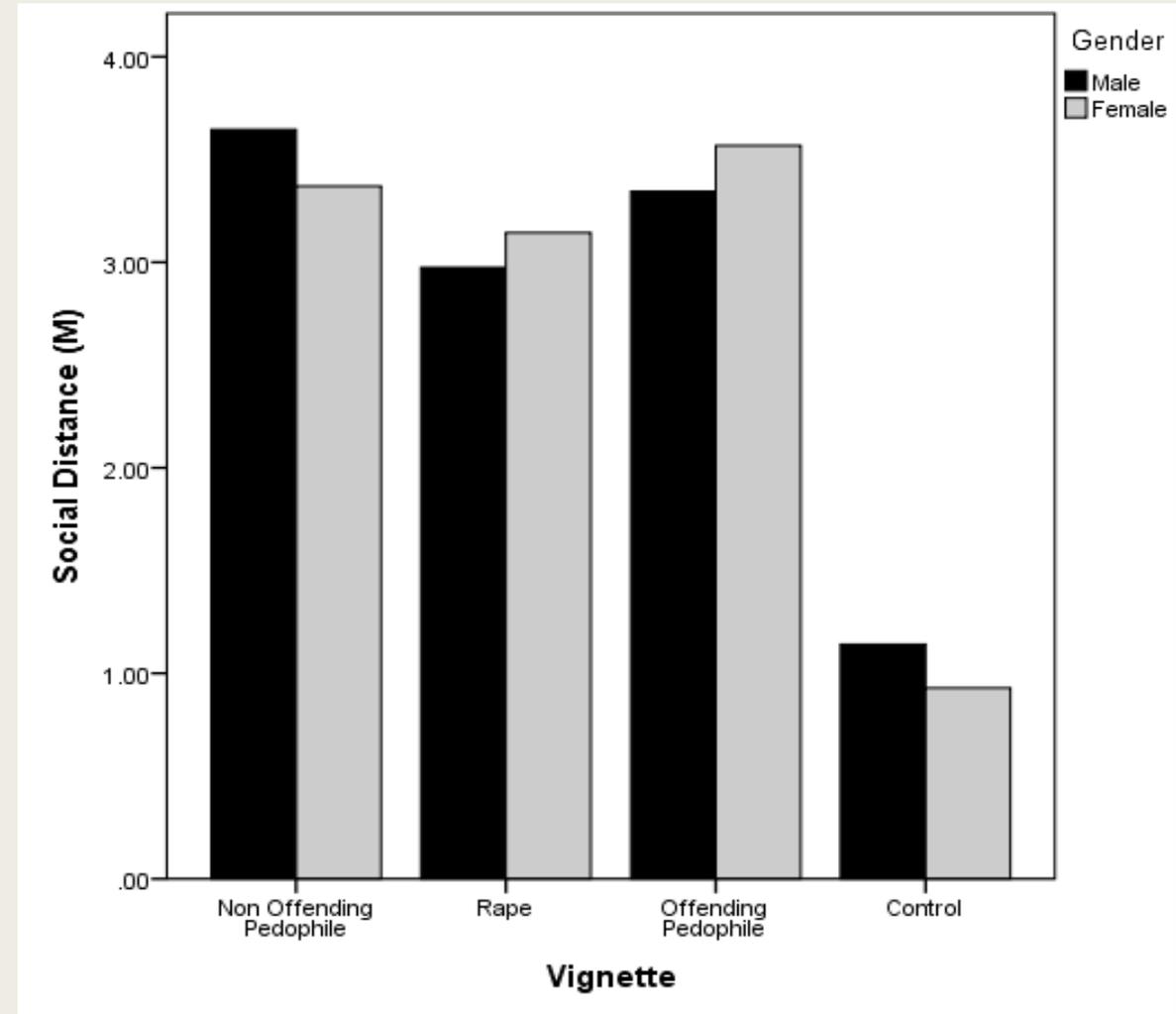
Results: Reddit

- Significant difference between control and experimental vignettes

- No significant difference between the vignettes featuring the NOP, rapist, or offending pedophile

- No significant difference between the male and female vignettes

- Demographic variables did not significantly contribute to the model

Results: University

- Significant difference between control and experimental vignettes

- No significant difference between rapist and offending pedophile vignettes

- Participants reported higher social distance towards NOP vignettes than towards rapist and offending pedophile vignettes

- Significant difference between the sex of the individual in only the NOP vignettes

- Demographic variables did not significantly contribute to the model

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Implicit Theories of Paedophilic Personality Scale (ITPPS)

Replicated well in the University sample

- Positive Personality, α = .87
- Abusive, α = .86
- Sexual Degenerate, α = .79
- Pathological, α = .77

Did not replicate well in the Reddit sample

- Abnormal, α = .86
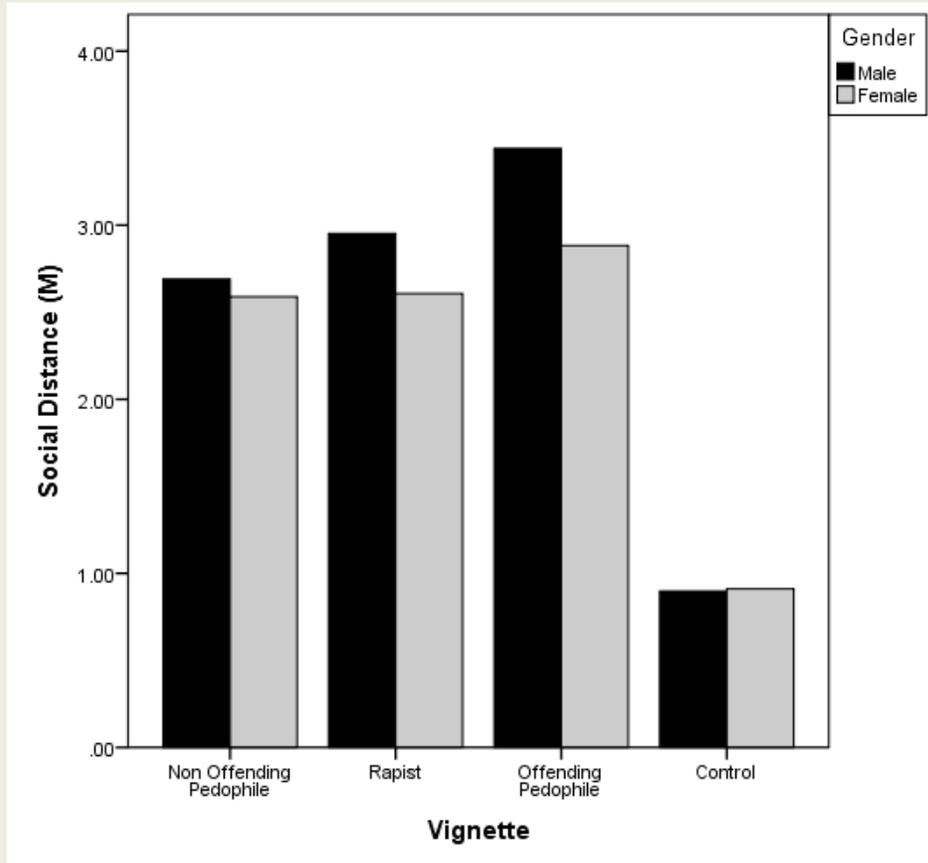- Positive Personality, α = .85
- Abusive, α = .55

Participant Personality NEO FFI

- University **and** Reddit Sample:
  - *Openness and Agreeableness were not significant predictors*
  - *Positive Personality Factor of the ITPPS was a significant predictor*

Limitations

Reddit Sample, *N* = 378

Study was conducted on very specific groups of people

Could be collecting attitudes of a fairly liberal population

Sample size

Future Direction

- Education
- Prevention programs
  - *Focus on mental health and wellbeing*
- Exploring openness to such initiatives
- Terminology
  - *Does it make a difference?*
  - *How does it make a difference*

don't offend.

there is help -
free of charge
and confidential

Thank you!

Questions?

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