

Brief descriptions of presentation at:

Pedophilia, Minor-Attracted Persons, and the DSM: Issues and Controversies
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Understanding Pedophilia and Other Paraphilias from a Psychiatric Perspective

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The word “Pedophilia” is a diagnostic term employed by the psychiatric community to designate a specific type of mental disorder. However, today that term has taken on a different meaning in society’s collective consciousness; serving as a demonizing pejorative that ostracizes those manifesting the condition. This conceptual review is intended to bring enhanced clarity to the matter of how one should understand Pedophilia from a psychiatric perspective, its cultural context, and its treatment. The presentation will also give an overview of other paraphilias as well.

The review addresses (1) the nature of Pedophilia, differentiating it from disorders of character, (2) etiological contributory factors, (3) whether those with it are deserving of treatment, (4) why treatment is even needed, (5) psychosocial and medical interventions, (6) treatment outcome, and (7) recent legislative initiatives related to the condition. From a mental health perspective, it is important to appreciate that Pedophilia is meant to designate a diagnosable, and potentially treatable, psychiatric condition, rather than a “criminal mind-set;” a mind-set reflective of a disregard for society’s values.