LAY PERCEPTIONS OF NON-OFFENDING PEDOPHILIA

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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)

- $\alpha = .82$
- 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
Implicit Theories of Paedophilic Personality Scale (ITPPS)

Replicated well in the University sample
- Positive Personality, $\alpha = .87$
- Abusive, $\alpha = .86$
- Sexual Degenerate, $\alpha = .79$
- Pathological, $\alpha = .77$

Did not replicate well in the Reddit sample
- Abnormal, $\alpha = .86$
- Positive Personality, $\alpha = .85$
- Abusive, $\alpha = .55$
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
Thank you!

Questions?

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