

A PCL-R, Rorschach, and PAI Investigation of Females with Sex Offenses Against Minors and a Rorschach Comparison with Male Pedophiles

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Abstract

In this study, the Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R), the Rorschach, and the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI) were used to elucidate the personality functioning of incarcerated females with sex offenses against minors (FSOAM; N = 31). There was significant convergence among the PCL-R, PAI, and Rorschach data. Both the PAI and Rorschach suggested: 1) borderline/psychotic reality testing and idiosyncratic thinking; 2) damaged sense of self, entitlement, and victim stance; 3) abnormal bonding and dependency; 4) affective instability; 5) impulsivity; and 6) chronic anger. Our comparison with a sample of male pedophiles (N = 36) highlighted gender specific issues with the women. Specifically, the women had more emotional deficits, ego-syntonic aggression, idiosyncratic thinking, and inappropriate attachments. A case study and our findings suggest a conceptual model for understanding the dynamics that result in female sexual offending behavior.

While more males in the United States are incarcerated for sexual assaults/rapes than females (13.3% males vs. 2.4% females; Carson, 2018), female sexual offending is more prevalent than previously thought (Cortoni, 2010; Goldhill, 2013; Sandler & Freeman, 2009; Tewksbury, 2004; Vandiver & Kercher, 2004). Women exhibit sexual re-offense rates at seven percent while it is 14 percent in males¹ (Vandiver, Braithwaite, & Stafford, 2018).

Female sexual offenders tend to be in their late 20's or early 30's, with victims less than 12 years old (most likely an acquaintance or family member), and are predominately white (Faller, 1995; Pflugradt & Allen, 2015; Miller & Marshall, 2018; Vandiver & Kercher, 2004; Vandiver & Walker, 2002). These offenders tend to have been sexually assaulted as a child, have substance abuse problems, and have been diagnosed with a psychiatric or personality disorder (Goldhill, 2013; Green & Kaplan, 1994; Johansson-Love & Fremouw, 2009; Marshall & Miller, 2018; Mathews, Mathews, & Speltz, 1991; McCarty, 1986). Female offenders tend to commit their sexual offenses with another, often a male accomplice, and there may be gender-specific cognitions (Beech, Parrett, Ward, & Fisher, 2009; Burkey & ten Bensel, 2015; Cortoni, Hanson,

¹ Female sexual offending may result from situational variables (DeCou, Cole, Rowland, Kaplan, & Lynch, 2015) rather than the ingrained sexual conditioning and preference associated with male sexual offending (Gacono & Meloy, 1994).

& Coache, 2009; Gannon, Hoare, Rose, & Parrett, 2012; Gannon, Rose, & Ward, 2008; Gannon et al., 2014; Goldhill, 2013; Williams & Bierie, 2015; Wijkman, Bijleveld, & Hendriks, 2011).

Personality Measures with Sexual Offenders

Psychological measures provide unique information about personality characteristics that contribute to sexual offending (Beauregard & DeLisi, 2018; Gacono & Meloy, 1994; Seto, Harris, & Lalumière, 2016). For example, a correlation between internet sexual offenses and depression has been found utilizing the PAI, suggesting both the compensatory nature of the behavior and its addictive quality (Laulik, Allam, & Sheridan, 2007; Magaletta, Faust, Bickart, & McLearn, 2014). The PAI Antisocial features (ANT), Borderline features (BOR), and Treatment Rejection (RXR) scales were also found to be elevated within male sexual offenders with institutional misconduct and treatment non-compliance (Boccaccini, Rufino, Jackson, & Murrie, 2013; Caperton, Edens, & Johnson, 2004).

Studies with the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI; Hathaway & McKinley, 1940) have found that female sexual offenders, like their male counterparts, elevate the Psychopathic Deviate (Pd) and Schizophrenia (Sc) scales (Davin, 1993; Hudson, 1995), suggesting both antisocial attitudes and a high degree of cognitive distortion (both aspects of a cognitive orientation that allows for offenders to distort interpersonal situations, rationalize, justify, and externalize blame for their behaviors). Elevations on the Paranoid (Pa) scale also suggest suspiciousness, sensitivity to criticism, and a tendency to personalize situations (narcissism; Kohut, 1971). It was found that those sex offenders who offend with another scored higher on PAI anxiety (ANX) and anxiety-related disorders (ARD) scales than solo female offenders. Solo offenders also had higher scores on PAI aggression (AGG) and dominance (DOM) scales (Miller & Marshall, 2018), consistent with greater psychopathic traits.

Studies with the Rorschach (RIM; 1921/1942) have found male and female psychopaths (PCL-R \geq 30) differ on interpersonal, affective, and self-perception variables. Males have been found to have less desire for attachment, greater grandiosity, less (shallow) affect, and an identification with aggression. Females tend to display dependency, have difficulty regulating emotions, exhibit an increased sense of self with more self-criticism and a damaged view of the self as well as identifying more with victims of aggression (Gacono, 1988, 1990; Gacono & Meloy, 1994; Cunliffe & Gacono, 2005, 2008; Cunliffe et al., 2016; Smith, 2013; Smith, Gacono, Cunliffe, Kivisto, & Taylor, 2014; Smith, Gacono, & Cunliffe, 2018; Smith, Gacono, & Cunliffe, in press). Males with sexual offenses against minors (MSOAM) produced more popular (P) responses than non-sexual offenders, consistent with their capacity for “appearing normal” (Cohan, 1998).

Gacono, Bridges, and Meloy have produced the most comprehensive Rorschach research on male sexual offenders (Bridges, Wilson, & Gacono, 1998; Gacono & Meloy, 1994; Gacono, Meloy, & Bridges, 2000, 2008; Huprich, Gacono, Schneider, & Bridges, 2004). They found that male pedophiles were rather banal, had a rigid cognitive style with tendencies to abuse fantasy, avoided emotionally toned stimuli, had dependency, and had chronic oppositionality and hostility (Bridges et al., 1998; Gacono et al., 2000, 2008; Huprich et al., 2004). Sexual homicide perpetrators (two were female) were highly disorganized and displayed high levels of aggressive identifications, abnormal attachment, difficulties disengaging from the environment, and higher levels of both obsessional thoughts and reality testing impairment. Both groups were highly self-focused.

Rorschach Hypotheses:

1. When compared to an archival sample of males with sexual offenses against minors (MSOAM; $N = 36$; Gacono, Meloy, & Bridges, 2000 [the “nonviolent pedophile” group]), the females (FSOAM; $N = 31$) will display more emotional difficulty and a poor sense of self (Females will produce more PureC, SumC’, and MOR than the males).
2. The females will also have more difficulty related to Rorschach Aggression Scores examining victimization compared to the males (AgC, AgPast).

PAI descriptive data were available for 25 of the women and are displayed as a complement to the Rorschach data. A case study is also provided to highlight the Rorschach’s usefulness in understanding personality functioning contributing to sex offending behaviors.

Method

Participants. Archival data were used for this study. Cases (years 1998-2014) were reviewed looking for males and females with a history of sex offenses. They were excluded if they had sex offenses against adults. The female and male groups were part of separate research projects conducted by Doctoral Level Psychologists at various prisons and forensic hospitals in the United States (Gacono, Meloy, & Bridges, 2008; Smith, Gacono, & Cunliffe, 2018). All participants provided informed consent to be included in research; they did not receive any monetary incentives and participation did not affect their sentence. The research studies were reviewed/approved by the various institutional review/ethical boards.

All males (MSOAM; $N = 36$; see Table 1) were white (100%). The average age was 40.4 (range = 24-70) and the average education level was 13.7 years². PCL-R scores were not available for this sample; however, none of the individuals met the criteria for ASPD or had a history of violence, consequently none were psychopathic. The mean number of Rorschach responses was 27.22 ($SD = 8.42$) and for Lambda, the mean was 1.06 ($SD = 0.65$; $F\% = 0.47$; $SD = 0.16$). See Gacono, Meloy, and Bridges (2000; 2008) for more information about these males. They were responsible for multiple victims (237 total victims; 68% male, 33% were acquaintances).

Females with histories of sexual offenses against minors (FSOAM) were on average 35 years old with average intelligence ($M = 94.65$; range = 80-116). Unlike the males, PCL-R scores were highly elevated (see Table 1). Eighteen (58.1%) had a PCL-R total score ≥ 30 , seven produced a score of 24-29, and five scored ≤ 24 . The ethnicities of the sample were White (80.6%) and Black (19.4%). Twenty-five (80.6%) reported being sexually abused as children, 19 (61.3%) were diagnosed with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), 22 (71.0%) were diagnosed with at least one Personality Disorder (16 [51.6%] with Borderline Personality Disorder [BPD] and 22 [71.0%] with Antisocial Personality Disorder).

The average victim age was 10.4 ($SD = 4.92$; range = 2-16). More than four in five victims were female (26; 83.9%) and just over half were a family member (16; 51.6%). Most had only one victim (18; 58.1%) and they tended to co-offend with a male (22; 71%).

² Due to the nature of the archival records, not all demographic data was available (see Table 1).

Table 1

Demographic Data

	Males (<i>N</i> = 36)			Females (<i>N</i> = 31)		
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	Range	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	Range
Age	40.4	10.43	24-70	35.10	11.47	20-57
IQ	N/A	N/A	-	94.65	11.33	80-116
Education Level	13.7	-	-	-	-	-
PCL-R TS	N/A	N/A	-	29.76	4.86	18.9-38
Responses	27.22	8.42	14-46	22.77	7.22	14-39
Lambda	1.06	0.65	0.11-2.67	0.80	0.47	0.14-2.17
<u>Victim Characteristics</u>						
Age	-	-	-	10.4	4.92	2-16

**Note.* Some male data are not present due to it not being available. TS = total score.

Measures. The Shipley Institute of Living Scale (SILS; Shipley & Zachary, 1986) or the Shipley-2 (Shipley, Gruber, Martin, & Klein, 2009), Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R; Hare, 2003), Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI; Morey, 1991), and Rorschach Inkblot Test (CS; Exner, 2003; Rorschach, 1921/1942) were administered in accordance with procedures outlined in the test manuals. The administration and scoring of each measure were completed by a Doctoral Level Psychologist (Ph.D. or Psy.D.) with extensive training in the scoring, administration, and interpretation of the measures.

The SILS/Shipley-2 was used to provide an estimate of intelligence. The Shipley measures crystallized intelligence with the Vocabulary scale and fluid intelligence with either the Abstraction or Block Pattern scale. The Shipley has been shown to correlate with the WAIS-R Full Scale IQ between .85 and .87 (Shipley & Zachary, 1986). It is important to utilize a cognitive measure when using the Rorschach as low IQ can contribute to a constricted Rorschach protocol (Gacono, 2019; Gacono et al., 2008; Smith et al., 2018).

The Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI; Morey, 1991) is a 344-item self-report measure of personality and psychopathology. It contains 22 non-overlapping full scales, including 4 validity, 11 clinical, 5 treatment consideration, and 2 interpersonal scales, as well as 30 subscales. The PAI was standardized on adult samples from the community (*N* = 1,000) and in mental health treatment (*N* = 1,265). When examining the validity of a protocol, participants were retained for analyses only if they obtained an Infrequency (INF) score below 75T and an Inconsistency (ICN) score below 73T (as outlined in Morey, 1991). Of the 31 participants, 26 completed the PAI and one participant was excluded based on profile invalidity, resulting in a final sample of 25 female sexual offenders with valid PAI protocols.

The Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (Hare, 1991, 2003) was used to measure psychopathy. This measure contains 20 items and is administered via a file review and a semi-

structured interview (e.g., Gacono, 2005). Prior to the interview, an in-depth file review was conducted in which medical, legal, psychiatric, and pertinent institutional files were reviewed. During the interview the personality characteristics and antisocial behaviors were evaluated on a three-point (0-2) ordinal scale with a total score range of 0 to 40. The inter-rater reliability estimate (Spearman Rho) was .98 for the PCL-R total score (PCL-R TS).

All the Rorschach protocols were administered and scored per the Exner Comprehensive System Guidelines (Exner, 2003). In addition, the Extended Aggression Scores (Aggressive Content (AgC), Aggression Past (AgPast), Aggressive Potential (AgPot), and Sadomasochism (SM); Gacono & Meloy, 1994), the Rorschach Oral Dependency (ROD) scale (Bornstein & Masling, 2005), and the Trauma Content Index (TCI; Armstrong & Loewenstein, 1990) were also scored. Twenty protocols were scored by two raters and inter-rater reliability was calculated from these protocols. Inter-rater reliability Kappa coefficients for all Rorschach scores were in the excellent range from .75 to 1.00 (Meyer, 1999).

Descriptive statistics were examined for the females' Rorschach and PAI data. Then the male and female groups were compared on the following Rorschach indices: AgC, AgPast, WSum6, M, MOR, SumC', Pure C, SumT, and spoiled SumT (a texture response with poor FQ, a Cognitive Score, or MOR).

Procedure

After obtaining and excluding files, the male and female groups were compared on the Rorschach variables mentioned above. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22, was used for all calculations. The data were analyzed for means, standard deviations, median, mode, skewness, kurtosis, and ranges. Gender comparisons utilized parametric tests (*t*-tests) where appropriate. Where unequal distributions and J-shaped curves rendered parametric tests inappropriate, non-parametric statistics were employed (Chi-square, Mann-Whitney U statistics; Viglione, 1995).

For the case study, one female was randomly selected from the 25 protocols available that had both the PAI and the Rorschach. The Rorschach was scored with the Exner Comprehensive System as well as for the ROD, TCI, and Extended Aggression scores. Further, psychodynamic scoring for Kwawer (1980) Primitive Modes of Relating and the Cooper, Perry, and Arnow (1988) Rorschach Defense Scales were completed to add to the Structural Summary.

Results

PAI³ & PCL-R Data The females tended to present themselves in a negative light (Negative Impression Management [NIM]; $M = 75.16$; $SD = 18.90$). They endorsed significant levels of anxiety (ANX; $M = 71.56$; $SD = 13.20$), traumatic stress (ARD-T; $M = 84.04$; $SD = 11.92$), and depressive symptoms (DEP; $M = 74.28$; $SD = 12.97$). Possibly related to the significant symptoms of traumatic stress, the FSOAM group reported hypervigilance and persecutory thoughts (PAR; $M = 69.96$; $SD = 10.54$). The data also suggested that they view things in an idiosyncratic manner and were socially detached (SCZ; $M = 70.76$; $SD = 12.52$).

The highest scores among the full scales were on the Borderline features scale (BOR; $M = 77.00$; $SD = 13.19$). All four Borderline features subscales were elevated, including affective

³ For complete PAI Data for the FSOAM group see the online supplement:
<https://mfr.osf.io/render?url=https%3A%2F%2Fosf.io%2Fbzerv%2Fdownload>

instability (BOR-A; $M = 68.28$), identity problems (BOR-I; $M = 72.24$), self-harm (BOR-S; $M = 70.08$), and negative relationships (BOR-N; $M = 74.96$). They also engaged in antisocial and stimulus-seeking behavior and they do not take responsibility for these behaviors (ANT; $M = 69.60$; $SD = 14.13$; PCL-R item 16 Failure to Accept Responsibility for Own Actions; $M = 1.73$). Alcohol and drug issues were also prominent (ALC; $M = 71.88$; $SD = 23.51$; DRG; $M = 85.20$; $SD = 21.53$). Physical aggression appeared to be a concern (AGG-P; $M = 67.32$; $SD = 16.86$; PCL-R item 10 Poor Behavioral Controls; $M = 1.42$) as did the potential for overt violence (VPI; $M = 86.00$; $SD = 19.14$). They also viewed their environment as unsupportive (NON; $M = 70.32$; $SD = 11.66$). Additionally, they appeared to express low levels of dominance and warmth in relationships (DOM; $M = 47.88$; $SD = 16.37$; WRM; $M = 41.88$; $SD = 11.88$), consistent with a disengaged, aloof interpersonal style.

Rorschach.⁴ The females produced an average amount of Rorschach responses ($M = 22.77$; $SD = 7.22$) and normative Lambda ($M = 0.80$; $SD = 0.47$; F%; $M = 0.41$; $SD = 0.14$). They either lacked a consistent problem-solving style (35.5% ambitent) or tended toward environmental engagement (38.7% extratensive), consistent with the high levels of psychopathy in this sample, and quite different from the male pedophiles who tended to be introversive with elevated Lambdas. They had significantly fewer human movement responses than the males (see Table 2). The females had less resources (EA; $M = 6.87$) compared to their stress (es; $M = 10.74$). This was evident in their D scores ($M = -1.19$) and Adj D scores ($M = -0.71$) which would suggest their issues are long-term and characterological.

Affect. The females had difficulty modulating their affect (FC: CF+C = 0.68: 3.16 [1:4.6]) and they tended to discharge emotions impulsively (Pure C; $M = 1.19$; $SD = 0.98$). Consequently, they utilized avoidance to deal with emotionally toned situations (Afr; $M = 0.56$). Anger or oppositionality were present (S responses; $M = 3.68$). They produced a low number of Blends/R ($M = 0.20$); however, 45% produced at least one color-shading blend ($M = 0.87$). Additionally, their internal world was particularly painful and dysphoric (SumC'; $M = 2.32$), characterized by rumination (SumV; $M = 1.16$; SumV > 0 = 61%), and feelings of anxiety and helplessness (SumY; $M = 1.06$; SumY > 0 = 48%; m; $M = 1.81$). The female sample had significantly more SumC' and PureC than the male sample (see Table 2).

Interpersonal & Attachment. The Rorschach data indicated problematic interpersonal relationships. The females tended to demonstrate a poor understanding of others (GHR: PHR: $M = 2.42$: 3.42) and viewed others in an incomplete manner (H:Hd+(H)+(Hd) = $M = 1.55$:3.61 [1:2.3]). Consistent with their high rates of ASPD and psychopathy, they viewed themselves as victims and externalized blame for their behaviors (AgPast; $M = 1.55$; AgPast > 0 = 68%; AgPot; $M = 0.52$; AgPot > 0; 35%). The females produced significantly more AgC and AgPast than the males (see Table 2). Consequently, there was little expectation that relationships will be cooperative (COP; $M = 0.77$; COP > 0; 42%). They did not produce a high average of sadomasochistic responses, but many produced at least one SM response (SM; $M = 0.35$; SM > 0 = 29%). Though they did not produce many Food responses ($M = 0.42$; Fd > 0 = 29%), dependency was present (ROD; $M = 0.25$). Data also point to a desire to engage with others (SumT; $M = 1.19$; T > 0 = 61%). However, most of their T responses were spoiled (e.g., poor form quality, Cognitive Special score, morbid response, etc.; 52%), suggesting that attachment

⁴ For complete Rorschach data for the FSOAM group, see the online supplemental: <https://mfr.osf.io/render?url=https%3A%2F%2Fosf.io%2Ffbzerv%2Fdownload>

relationships tended to disrupt their cognitive processes. Though there was no significant difference in SumT responses between the MSOAM and FSOAM groups, the females produced significantly more spoiled T responses than the males (see Table 2).

Table 2

Statistics for Select Comprehensive System Rorschach Variables

Variable	MSOAM (N = 36)			FSOAM (N = 31)			Statistic	p	es
	M	SD	Freq (%)	M	SD	Freq (%)			
AgC	2.78	1.74	33 (92%)	4.29	2.18	31 (100%)	329.00*	0.003	0.36
AgPast	0.53	0.84	12 (33%)	1.61	1.61	21 (67%)	319.00*	0.001	0.40
MOR	1.03	1.23	20 (56%)	2.39	1.87	25 (81%)	314.50*	0.002	0.38
WSum6	14.94	14.25	33 (92%)	28.55	19.36	31 (100%)	3.305***	0.002	0.80
M	4.11	2.89	36 (100%)	2.77	1.98	28 (90%)	2.099***	0.040	0.54
PureC	0.39	0.77	11 (31%)	1.19	0.98	22 (71%)	238.50*	<0.001	0.46
SumC'	0.89	0.89	22 (61%)	2.32	2.02	26 (84%)	309.00*	0.001	0.40
SumT	0.97	1.40	18 (50%)	1.19	1.38	19 (61%)	485.50*	0.332	0.12
Spoiled T			9 (28%)			17 (56%)	5.79**	0.020	0.31

Note. * = Mann-Whitney U test; ** = χ^2 test; *** = t-test; M = mean; SD = standard deviation; Freq = frequency; es = effect size.

Self-perception. The women's EGOI ($M = 0.36$) were average; however, given their plethora of affective issues and interpersonal vulnerabilities, one would not say that their self-worth was adequate. Lack of reflections ($M = 0.35$; $Fr + rF = 0 = 74\%$), elevations of pairs (2) ($M = 6.97$; $SD = 4.30$; pairs $> 0 = 100\%$), and high levels of Morbid responses spoke to the tenuous nature of their self-esteem (MOR; $M = 2.39$; they had significantly more than the males; see Table 2). Defensiveness (PER; $M = 2.74$), somatic concerns (An + Xy; $M = 1.81$), traumatic stress/dissociation (TCI; $M = 0.24$), and unrealistic aspirations characterized them (W: M; $8.77:2.77 [3:1]$). While FD was present (FD; $M = 1.16$; $FD > 0 = 52\%$), 51% of these responses were spoiled and the presence of FD did not suggest that this group was particularly psychologically minded. Therefore, these women tended to look inward, and this introspection tended to be unproductive, ruminative, and ultimately disruptive.

Cognitive Ideation, Mediation, and Processing. The thinking problems that were evident were comprised mainly of idiosyncratic ideation and peculiar thoughts (WSum6; $M = 28.55$; significantly more than the males). This cognitive slippage was symptomatic of characterological impairment rather than psychosis ($Lvl\ 2 > 0 = 16\%$). While they did not produce many M- responses ($M = 0.45$), their low mean score was consistent with an extratensive style, impaired empathy, and impulsivity. Their thinking was influenced by self-reference, defensiveness, and derailment (DR + PER; $M = 8.35$). Anger appeared to distort their perceptions (S-; $M = 1.48$). There was less evidence of fantasy abuse in these women, speaking to the lack of rehearsal in their sexual offending behavior (Ma: Mp; $M = 1.65:1.13$). The females appeared to have significant problems with reality testing (X-%; $M = 0.23$; X+%; $M = 0.51$; WDA%; $M = 0.77$; XA%; $M = 0.74$). Their views were less conventional than females from non-clinical samples (P responses; $M = 5.26$) and they appeared to view things inefficiently (Zd; $M = -2.02$) and focused excessively on the details (W:D: Dd; $8.77:10.32: 3.68$).

The following case study highlighted our group data in understanding the relationship between the personality functioning of these women and their sexually offending behavior.

Case Study. Summer⁵ is a late 20's, divorced, college-educated female born in North America. She was diagnosed with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and BPD. Consistent with BPD, her personal and relationship histories were particularly chaotic. She has a history of being physically abused by her ex-husband, sexually abused as a child, self-directed violence (cutting), and significant alcohol abuse. She had multiple marriages (PCL-R Item 17 = 2; ex-husband involved in the sexual offense) and she has no contact with her daughter (less than age 12). This sex offense which she engaged in (rape of her daughter) was her only criminal arrest. Summer had been employed in local government. Behavioral observations and mental status were within normal limits and her intelligence was average (Shipley-2; IQ = 99). Her psychopathy level was moderate (PCL-R = 25.6).

Summer's PAI protocol suggested health concerns and the presence of traumatic events consistent with her trauma history (SOM-H; T = 70; ARD; T = 78). Hypervigilance, resentment, and social detachment were evident (PAR; T = 70; SCZ-S; T = 71). Consistent with her diagnosis of BPD, she elevated the Borderline features subscales related to identity problems, affective instability, and negative relationships (BOR; T = 71). Further, due to the impulsivity of her crime, she elevated the Antisocial and Aggression scales (ANT; T = 74; AGG; T = 69). She had low levels of dominance and warmth which appeared to be related to her co-offending behavior with her ex-husband (DOM; T = 47; WRM; T = 38).

⁵ Pseudonym

Table 3

Rorschach Responses for Summer

<p>Card I 1. S: A bug</p> <p>CS Scoring: Wo 1 Fo A,An ZW INC Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: Reaction Formation, Intellectualization</p>	<p>S: I guess because of this right here and the wings E: Bug? S: because of the spine, antennas, wings, does that make sense?</p>
<p>2. S: More than one thing, this may sound weird but it looks like an award, a military award, that's it</p> <p>CS Scoring: Ddo 99 C'Fo Art PER Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: Primitive Idealization, Isolation</p>	<p>S: I haven't seen many awards, they look similar, greyish in color, metal, symmetrical on both sides</p>
<p>Card II 3. S: Oh hmm, I don't know why, a pelvis bone like a part of a skeleton, I have no idea other than that</p> <p>CS Scoring: DSo 6 C'F.VFo Xy MOR Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: Boundary Disturbance Defenses coded: Isolation</p>	<p>S: The whole thing other than the red kind of E: Pelvis? S: x-ray of a pelvis E: X-ray? S: dark and its grayish, color of gray, bone density, diff colors of gray</p>
<p>Card III 4. S: More bones</p> <p>CS Scoring: DSo 1 C'Fo Xy MOR Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: Boundary Disturbance Defenses coded: Isolation</p>	<p>S: I don't know, arm bones, pelvis, somebody's ultrasound, how it is all gray</p>
<p>5. S: I don't know an x-ray of something</p> <p>CS Scoring: DSv 1 Y Xy Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: Boundary Disturbance Defenses coded: Isolation</p>	<p>S: X-ray, turns out the same way, light or dark depending on what they are x-raying</p>
<p>6. S: I don't know, the red looks like blood splatter that you would see on a TV program, that's it</p> <p>CS Scoring: Dv 2 m'a.Co 2 BI PER MOR Aggression Scoring: AgPast Primitive modes of relating: Violent symbiosis, separation, and reunion Defenses coded: Projection, Isolation, Devaluation</p>	<p>S: I don't know on a movie E: Blood? Starts and runs, just runs and maybe this way E: Splatter? Just what I have seen on TV</p>

<p>Card IV 7. S: A shadow umm, a bush or tree comes to mind</p> <p>CS Scoring: Wv 1 Fo Bt PER DR Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: Engulfment Defenses coded: None</p>	<p>S: I don't know, the whole thing in general into the woods E: Shadow? Bottom tree, stump branches, shadow of a tree some bushes S: Stump? Looks like a stump, tree top, the top of a tree, bushes grow weirder, need to prune or they get crazy on you</p>
<p>8. S: A scary monster</p> <p>CS Scoring: Wo 1 Fo (H) P ZW GHR Aggression Scoring: AgC Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: Projective Identification, Higher-Level Denial</p>	<p>S: I don't know, a scary monster in a closet, these look like feet and arms E: Scary? S: because it is big</p>
<p>9. S: This part up here looks like a lizard or dragon by their head</p> <p>CS Scoring: Ddo 99 FMpu (A) DV Aggression Scoring: AgC Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: Repression</p>	<p>S: This looks like a communal (sp) dragon, puffs up E: Dragon? These are, see it's a dragon, back puffs up a lot, scales and kinda what it looks like scales</p>
<p>10. S: These look like feet</p> <p>CS Scoring: Do 6 Fo Hd PHR Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: None</p>	<p>S: feet or boots E: Feet? Toes, heel</p>
<p>Card V 11. S: A moth</p> <p>CS Scoring: Wo 1 Fo A ZW DV Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: None</p>	<p>S: because of the whole symmetrical on both sides, moth looks like wings</p>
<p>12. S: A bat</p> <p>CS Scoring: Wo 1 Fo A P ZW PSV Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: None</p>	<p>S: Something bigger like the size, big bat or moth, same shape</p>

<p>13. S: Some other type of bug I don't know about</p> <p>CS Scoring: Wo 1 Fo A ZW DV Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: Repression, Isolation</p>	<p>S: Multiple bugs with wings I don't know about, kinda looks like a bug</p>
<p>Card VI</p> <p>14. S: Something that got split, looks like a crack down the middle like something that got split, the whole thing is symmetrical, it is the same on both sides, someone took a piece of paper and folded it in half</p> <p>CS Scoring: Wv 1 VFo Id MOR DV Aggression Scoring: AgPast Primitive modes of relating: Boundary Disturbance, Violent symbiosis, separation, and reunion Defenses coded: Devaluation</p>	<p>S: Like down the middle, there is a crack, um and something split, flows out darker and lighter, dispenses</p>
<p>Card VII</p> <p>15. S: Bushes</p> <p>CS Scoring: Wo 1 F- 2 Bt ZW PER Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: Repression</p>	<p>S: I see two bushes, this part, each one is individual trees, I have seen them around, a spiral E: Bushes? S: Spirals</p>
<p>16. S: Looks like an aerial view of some land</p> <p>CS Scoring: Wv 1 VFu Ls Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: Boundary Disturbance Defenses coded: Isolation</p>	<p>S: Lay it flat just took a picture of land or an island or something, different colors, dark and light, a lot of density</p>
<p>Card VIII</p> <p>17. S: Kinda like, try to think of a lizard or it is some other type of animal</p> <p>CS Scoring: Do 1 Fo 2 A P DR Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: Higher-level Denial</p>	<p>S: These here, I thought of a lizard, doesn't look like some type of animal, tail and body of a lizard, makes me think of a racoon, not sure of a lizard or other type of animal</p>
<p>18. S: This kinda looks like treetops</p> <p>CS Scoring: Do 4 CF.YFu Bt Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: None</p>	<p>S: This kinda looks like treetops E: Tree tops? S: the green, just the colors, the dark and the light and how it comes to a point at the top</p>

<p>19. S: Someone took a sponge and sponged it with paint</p> <p>CS Scoring: Wv 1 T.C Hh,Id ALOG Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: Isolation, Intellectualization, Hypomanic Denial</p>	<p>S: The texture, multiple colors therefore I would say paint and the texture looks like a sponge, makes sense</p>
<p>20. S: This kinda looks like a valley</p> <p>CS Scoring: DSv 3 F- Ls DR Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: Isolation</p>	<p>S: Right here, a map, land drops off a cliff E: Valley? S: Valley came to mind first</p>
<p>Card IX 21. S: This kinda looks like deer horns</p> <p>CS Scoring: Ddo 99 Fu 2 Ad ALOG Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: Repression</p>	<p>S: this right here and right here because of the points, the whole thing looks like deer horns because that is how deer horns look like</p>
<p>22. S: There is a shadow in the background</p> <p>CS Scoring: DSv 8 V Id Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: Isolation</p>	<p>S: First, where it is lighter in the background</p>
<p>23. S: Looks like something got split in the middle because it is darker on the inside and lighter on the outside</p> <p>CS Scoring: Dv 2 VF.TF.m'p- Id MOR Aggression Scoring: AgPast Primitive modes of relating: Boundary disturbance, Violent symbiosis, separation, and reunion Defenses coded: Devaluation, Isolation</p>	<p>S: Something got split, darker, lighter out here, smeared E: Smeared? S: lighter in color, texture like a paint brush, wet</p>
<p>24. S: Kinda looks like a spine down the back of it</p> <p>CS Scoring: Do 5 Fo An Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: Repression</p>	<p>S: this right here E: Spine? S: Because it looks like vertebrae, lines in the middle, long, I don't know, just looks like a spine</p>
<p>25. S: A heart comes to mind at the bottom of it but I don't know why</p> <p>CS Scoring: Ddo 35 CF- An Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: Boundary Disturbance Defenses coded: Isolation</p>	<p>S: right here E: Heart? S: multiple chambers, its red, um I guess that's about it</p>

<p>Card X</p> <p>26. S: Oh my hmmm, I don't know but I know wishbone isn't green but this reminds me of a wishbone</p> <p>CS Scoring: Do 10 Fo Sc MOR PER Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: Rorschach Oral Dependency, Higher-level denial, Pollyannish Denial</p>	<p>S: this one right here looks like a wishbone other than it is green E: Wishbone? S: the wishbone point in the center, bones of it on a turkey, we don't pull it off a turkey for Thanksgiving</p>
<p>27. S: Reminds me of looking under a microscope because these look like walnuts</p> <p>CS Scoring: Do 2 FT- 2 Fd ALOG Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: None Defenses coded: Rorschach Oral Dependency, Projection, Isolation</p>	<p>S: This looks like on both sides potentially like a walnut of some sort E: Walnut? S: This looks like, shaped like a walnuts, kinda like a shape and looks fuzzy E: Fuzzy? S: The strokes hard and prickly [touch]</p>
<p>28. S: Or a type of egg</p> <p>CS Scoring: Do 2 Fo 2 An,Art DR Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: Boundary Disturbance Defenses coded: Projection, Isolation</p>	<p>S: It's going to sound weird but eggs for worms E: Eggs? S: Egg under a microscope, nuclear and cell membranes in a cell</p>
<p>29. A smear on a slide</p> <p>CS Scoring: Wv/+ 1 CF.YF- A,Sc,Art ZW Aggression Scoring: None Primitive modes of relating: Boundary Disturbance Defenses coded: Isolation</p>	<p>S: Smear, some of the colors, something on a slide, stained because bacteria, different bacteria</p>

Figure 1

Rorschach Coding and Summary for Summer

I	1	Wo	1	F	o	A,An		ZW	INC	1			
	2	Ddo	99	C'F	o	Art			PER				
II	3	DSo	6	C'F.VF	o	Xy			MOR				
III	4	DSo	1	C'F	o	Xy			MOR				
	5	DSv	1	Y	no	Xy							
IV	6	Dv	2	m'a.C	o	2	Bl		PER MOR				AgPast
	7	Wv	1	F	o	Bt			PER DR				
	8	Wo	1	F	o	(H)		P ZW		GHR 2			AgC
	9	Ddo	99	FMp	u	(A)			DV				AgC
	10	Do	6	F	o	2	Hd			PHR			
V	11	Wo	1	F	o	A		ZW	DV	1			
	12	Wo	1	F	o	A		P ZW	PSV	1			
	13	Wo	1	F	o	A		ZW	DV	1			
VI	14	Wv	1	VF	o	Id			MOR DV				AgPast
VII	15	Wo	1	F	-	2	Bt		ZW PER	2.5			
	16	Wv	1	VF	u	Ls							
VIII	17	Do	1	F	o	2	A		P DR				
	18	Do	4	CF.YF	u	Bt							
	19	Wv	1	T.C	no	Hh,Id			ALOG				
IX	20	DSv	3	F	-	Ls			DR				
	21	Ddo	99	F	u	2	Ad		ALOG				
	22	DSv	8	V	no	Id							
	23	Dv	2	VF.TF.m'p	-	Id			MOR				AgPast
	24	Do	5	F	o	An							1
X	25	Ddo	35	CF	-	An							
	26	Do	10	F	o	Sc			MOR PER				
	27	Do	2	FT	-	2	Fd		ALOG				1
	28	Do	2	F	o	2	An,Art		DR				
	29	Wv/+	1	CF.YF	-	A,Sc,Art		ZW			5.5		

Compute for R = 29	L = 0.93	F% = 0.48	S-CON = 10	Affect EB: NA, DEPI CDI
Scoring	Age: 36	Controls	Positive	eb = 3:14 Discomfort
EB = 0:6	EA = 6	EBper : NA	Styles State Patho. P. Const*	Irritation Helplessness Loneliness S.Criticism
eb = 3:14	es = 17	D = -4	EB: NA, CDI>3 DEPI&CDI Daj<0 DEPI>5	Afr = 0.81 Afr: EB: Age
EB: NA, Adjes: 14	Adj D = -3	Step 1) Adj D Very Vulnerable	PTI=2	PC% = 0.45 medium
FM = 1	SumC= 3	Step 2) EA Valid AdjD	DEPI=6*	ΣC:W&C = 3:6
m = 2	SumV= 5	Step 3) EB &L Invalid AdjD (WsumC=0)	CDI=4*	intel = 3 0
Ebt (XP) Ebt = 1	SumY= 3	Step 4) Adj es Abandon	HVI: ns.	CP = 0
DEPI & CDI: RELATIONS -> SELF -> CONTROLS -> AFFECT -> PROCESSING -> MEDIATION -> IDEATION				
Processing	Mediation	Coding Validity	Affect	
PSV = 1 Attention difficulty (1/2) attention	XA% = 0.69	AGE Cards N*	Blends/R = 6:29 Blid% 0.21	
DQv 1st = 2 C. Impuls. OR Attention diff.	WDA% = 0.68	Loc&DQ	StressBld = 3	
Zd = -6.5 underincorporative scanning	X-% = 0.21	DET	Adj Blend = 4:29 AdjBlid% 0.14	
Dd = 4 atypical processing	S- = 1	FQ	3xBld = 1	
Zf = 7 low efforts	P = 3	CONT	>3xBld = 0	
W/D = 11:14 economical easy:9:11	X+% = 0.55	Z score	Col-Shd Bld = 3	
DQ+ = 0 low quality	Xu% = 0.14	SpSc	Shd Bld = 2	
DQv/v+ = 10 failures	Stp3a FQ- Homogeneity (6)	Relations (Perception)	Blend : EB : L medium	
W/M = 11:0 NA objectives	3.1stC- = 0	COP = 0 discomfort	Adj Blend : EB : L low	
Step3: Loc Sequence (XP), Incoherent Loc Index, ILI = 3	BC- = 1/6	AG = 0 t	3xBld % & >3xBld	
Ideation EB: NA,	CC- = 5/6	GHR:PHR = 1:1	Col-Shd Bld : EB confusion	
EBper = NA	RC- = 0	a:p = 1:2	Shd Bld ***	
a/p = 1:2 NA	PC- = 5/6	Food = 1	Self	
HVI = 0	S- = 1/6	SumT = 3	EGO = 0.24 EGO: Age: low	
OBS = 33	Dd- = 1/6	H Cont. = 2	Fr+Fr = 0	
MOR=6 pessimism WSum6: Age	M- = 0	Pure H = 0	SumV = 5	
m=2 peripheral ideation (stress) disturbed thinking	FMm- = 1/6	PER = 5	FD = 0	
FM=1 3/3	Color- = 1/3	Isol* Indx = 0.17	An+Xy = 7	
Ma/Mp = 0:0 NA M- = 0	Shd- = 1/2	H Cont:R:EB (Interest low)	MOR = 6	
Intel* = 3 0 Mnone = 0	F- = 1/3	Hpur:R:EB (comp*) misunders	H:(H)+Hd+(Hd)= 0:2 Self R* NA	
	AnXySxBI- = 1/6		Step 7b :Human content responses quality (XP)	
	Hcont- = 0		Generally Positive Features, GPF Sum=12 μ=6	
			Generally Negative Features, GN Sum=0 μ=0	

Agressive Contents	
AgC	2
AgPot	0
AgPast	3
AgV	0
IMP	0
SM	0

ROD/TCI	
SumROD	2.00
ROD/R	0.07
TCI	0.38

Note. Rorschach scoring and summary for Summer using CHESSSS (Fontan et al., 2013). For the Rorschach scoring, the '1' in the second column from the right denotes a ROD response.

Rorschach Analysis. Summer's Structural Summary supported the borderline personality organization characterized by borderline/psychotic reality testing and idiosyncratic thinking, damaged sense of self, entitlement, victim stance, abnormal bonding and dependency, affective instability, impulsivity, and chronic anger of the FSOAM (see Table 3 & Figure 1). As Summer's protocol was administered with the CS procedures, her sequence of scores can be used as a blueprint for understanding how she responds to novel situations, the vulnerabilities that contribute to her sex offending behavior, and the types of dynamic issues that contribute to her thinking problems and how she reacts to those issues (Meloy, Acklin, Gacono, Murray, & Peterson, 1997; Schafer, 1954).

She began the task with response 1, a bug (devaluation). The introduction of this ambiguous stimulus caused some disruption to her cognitive functioning as indicated by the inappropriate combination. It is also a mildly devalued content when considered as reflective of her self-worth. Response 2 can be interpreted as her reaction to Card 1 and the way she copes. She attempted to narrow the stimulus field. However, she resorted to primitive defenses which were not as effective (suggesting hysteria and the potential for dissociation). The result was a biting of the tongue (C'F, an anatomy response [spine], and a defensive posture [PER]). Although the devaluation is not technically scorable we see a glimpse of splitting in the juxtaposition of the undesirable bug and the military award (idealization).

Card II highlighted Summer's problems with affect. She was overwhelmed by the introduction of color; it taps into her dysphoric internal world (MOR). While she attempts to control her affective experience (C'F) through isolation (potential dissociation), it does not protect her from disorganization (boundary disturbance). The response highlighted the cycle between poor affect regulation, disorganization, and a damaged sense of self (MOR). Emotional mastery is a basic developmental task. When it is unsuccessful, self-worth and identity suffer, and interpersonal relationships are impaired. Further, the response has another anatomy percept (pelvis) highlighting her anger that stems from her emotional vulnerability.

Card III began with more hard anatomy indicating her frustration in struggling with boundary issues and difficulty with affect, and she used isolation to manage affect (potential dissociation). What began on Response 3 continues to 4 and 5. The cumulation of the first four responses finally contributed to severe disruptions as suggested by the formal scoring as well as the vague form quality. Finally, on response 5, we see the complete breakdown of Summer's attempts to "keep it together." Formal scoring m'a.C, reveals her feeling of helplessness and explosive affect, while the special scores highlighted her aggression and the reliance on primitive defenses (projection, isolation, devaluation---dissociation). The impact of her inability to manage affect is highlighted on this card; that is, her damaged sense of self (MOR; AgPast). If one feels damaged, has poor boundaries, and cannot manage affect in a mature way (use of primitive defenses), at the cost of cognitive distortion, certainly they will have difficulties interpersonally. What is of note through the first five responses is the absence of Popular responses indicating that Summer is unable to tap into social conventionality in order to pull herself together or "appear normal."

Card IV began with a rather bland response. The card stimulates a defensive reaction with some disorganization (PER, DR, Wv). Response 8 used a Popular to stay organized, despite the aggressive imagery and the use of projective identification and denial. On 9, Summer gave up her attempt to take in the entire blot by narrowing the stimulus field (Dd) to make it manageable. Perhaps the presence of aggressive imagery is disorganizing. While using a higher-level defense, she still evidenced cognitive disruptions (FQu, DV). She recovered on response

10 by producing an ordinary detail, a simple construct, devoid of affect. What caused the disruption on Card IV? Typically, it is viewed as a card with masculine features. We will leave it to the reader to make inferences concerning her relationship to men, past, present and future.

Card V was relatively easy for Summer. For the most part the simplicity of the percept allows her to avoid affect and maintain some higher-level defenses. This was midway through the Rorschach task, and perhaps offered some relief from the experience of the first four cards which highlighted how her energy is used to cope with affect and how affect disorganized her. However, her relief was short-lived. On Card VI her struggles continued as highlighted by her poor boundaries, damaged sense of self (AgPast, MOR) and her problematic relationships (violent symbiosis). Responses 15 and 16 on Card VII continue the patterns noted prior to Card V. We see the failure of repression (#15, FQ-) and the reversion to isolation (potential dissociation as a means of coping).

Card VIII began with relatively healthy response due to her using a common detail, the avoidance of color, the use of conventionality to structure her response (P), and a reliance on higher level denial. But note this is only her second P response in the record and she does produce a DR. Her respite was short lived as, perhaps, the impact of color (affect) impacted the following three responses with the usual display of disruptive affect and cognitive slippage. She did not recover on her final response (#20) as DQv, FQ-, and cognitive slippage highlighted her difficulty with affect (Card VIII is a color card) and, perhaps, the cumulative impact of the test.

Card IX can be the most difficult for individuals who have difficulty managing dysphoric affect. The colors tend to be less harmonious. Summer's first response attempted to make the stimulus more manageable, but she failed (ALOG). Response 22 was completely overwhelming (Dqv, FQnone) and strongly suggested dissociation. Response 23 highlighted her dysphoric internal world, her neediness, her feelings of helplessness, and her damaged sense of self. While not the healthiest response, she did recover on #24 with the use of a common detail and higher-level defenses. There was still a strained quality (An) to this temporary adjustment. As noted on the final response to this card, her attempt to make things manageable (Dd) and the use of isolation were not successful (FQ-). Card X offered more of the same. It highlighted the impact of affect on her thinking, further supported her neediness (and its impact on reality testing, FT-with ALOG), her damaged sense of self, and the use of primitive defenses. She ended the task on response 29 with FQ-, boundary disturbance, and dissociation.

Overall, Summer's Rorschach Sequence Analysis portrayed the way her lack of emotional mastery and her struggles with affect sap her psychic energy, disrupt her ability to function interpersonally, and impact her self-esteem. Summer has little left for healthy relationships which only further contributed to her poor judgment.

Discussion

In reading Kernberg's (1975) description of the antisocial personality, clearly, he was describing the most severe antisocial individual or the psychopath. He posited that these individuals, specifically the males, had severe narcissistic personality disorders organized at a borderline level of functioning. In our study of the female sex offenders, we have found support for at least part of Kernberg's (1975) formulation as applied to women. Indeed, these antisocial, mostly psychopathic women (58% scored ≥ 30 on the PCL-R), are organized at a borderline level of functioning.

Borderline personality organization is characterized by reality testing deficits (difficulty objectively differentiating from the internal and external world) and a reliance on primitive

defenses, poor impulse control, and poor anxiety tolerance (Acklin, 1997). Psychotic reality testing and idiosyncratic thinking were quite evident in these women. Primitive defenses (splitting, devaluation, and primitive idealization) were present in the case study of Summer. While Summer produced higher-level defenses (i.e., neurotic; Acklin, 1997), they failed to function in warding off threats or stabilizing primitive defenses (Gacono & Meloy, 1994; Smith et al., 2014).

Though the males can be described as having a rigid cognitive style with tendencies to abuse fantasy, avoiding emotionally toned stimuli, having dependency, and having chronic oppositionality and hostility, this would not be the case for the females. The females had a less rigid style and fantasies, displayed differences in aggression, and had difficulty regulating emotions. Though the females had dependency like the males, the quality and presentation were different.

Further, abundant dysphoric affect distinguished the females from the males as did the potential for explosive emotions. The females presented with depressive symptoms and anxiousness perhaps related to past trauma. Poor emotional regulation with explosive emotionality may cause the female sexual offender to act impulsively on their sexual desires. Emotional dysregulation problems likely contribute to their impulsivity, including impulsively engaging in sexually deviant behavior. The females experienced problems with delay that further impact their problem-solving style (unlike male pedophiles, the majority are ambitious or extratensive). Their poor boundaries, affectivity impaired judgment, and lack of self-worth make them easy vehicles for going along with whatever they find themselves involved with.

The females had sexual crimes that were impulsive with another co-offender, which would be different from males whose sex crimes tend to be pre-meditated and fantasy based ($p > a$; the females were also not preoccupied with sex). Further, unlike the males, the females tended to have more idiosyncratic and peculiar thoughts related to the borderline personality organization with them. The females' impulsivity can be seen with their high use of alcohol and drugs. The use of these substances to ineffectively cope with her affect, abusive relationships, and past trauma makes her more susceptible to engage in antisocial behaviors. Related to impulsive behaviors, she tended to have chronic anger which also caused difficulty with her affective instability and perceptual distortions.

However, unlike the narcissism in the males, our women manifested a malignant hysterical personality style (also see Cunliffe & Gacono, 2005, 2008; Gacono & Meloy, 1994; Smith et al., 2014, 2018). As a group, and unlike male pedophiles and psychopaths where narcissism and a grandiose self-structure organize their personality, these women also elevated the EGOI without producing reflections but rather by elevating pairs, suggesting more self-criticism (Cunliffe & Gacono, 2005, 2008; Wiener, 2003). The pair response may be related to twinship, a form of narcissism that refers to an innate need to be accepted by others (Gacono, Meloy, & Heaven, 1990; Kohut, 1971); contrasted with the arrogant narcissistic functioning exhibited in males (Kernberg, 1975). Their damaged view may be related to their past abuse and traumatic events (81% had sexual abuse as children). There was significantly more damaged sense of self in the females than the males suggesting lower self-worth. This makes it difficult to have trust in the decisions they make, which may make it less likely to leave a relationship that includes sexual offending.

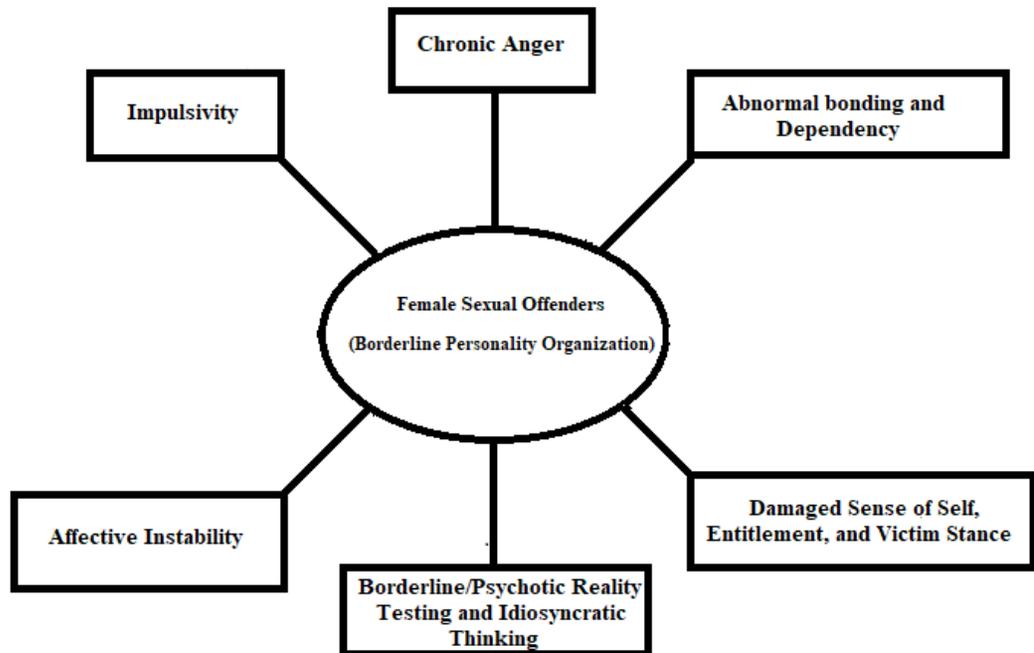
Their perceptions of appropriate sexually behaviors may be inaccurate given their own sexual abuse. The sense of self would also be present in body concerns. She is very likely to take on a victim stance that allows her to blame others for mistakes or in this case her sexual offenses

against children. The males studied were unlikely to view themselves as victims. Additionally, the females in this sample also evidenced a sense of entitlement regarding their ego-syntonic aggression. They tend to display the cognition that “you hurt me, I hurt you” which can help justify sexual behavior toward children. The males had more of an ego-dystonic view of aggression which suggests their aggressive behavior would cause stress and anxiousness when it was displayed.

Dependency, a part of the hysterical personality, is apparent in the females’ co-offending behavior. The attachment in the relationship, however, appears to be primitive and more related to neediness, dissimilar to the male sexual offenders (spoiled SumT). Even when coming to prison, the dependency/bonding problems becomes apparent, as they still state they are in love with their co-offender even if abuse was present or they engage in unhealthy relationships with other female inmates which mimics their other abnormal bonding patterns. This abnormal bonding and dependency, coupled with a poor understanding of others and low levels of dominance, allows the female sexual offender to be submissive to a co-offender.

Figure 2

Female Sexual Offender Personality Conceptualization



The females appeared to have difficulties in six areas: 1) borderline/psychotic reality testing and idiosyncratic thinking; 2) damaged sense of self, entitlement, and victim stance; 3) abnormal bonding and dependency; 4) affective instability; 5) impulsivity; and 6) chronic anger. Additionally, they meet the behavioral criteria related to antisocial personality disorder of irresponsibility, failing to conform to social norms, and lack of remorse. This antisocial

orientation (lack of empathy) coupled with their borderline organization (instability) provides fertile ground for sex offending behavior.

The data supported the authors' clinical impressions of interacting with female sexual offenders. Their sexually deviant behavior may be more related to poor cognitions, interpersonal deficits, and affective instability which leads to impulsive behaviors more than an entrenched attraction to minors. Clinically, these females tend to state affective lability as a driving force behind many of their ineffective/illegal behaviors in and out of prison. It was common for them to state when emotions reach a certain level there was no way to lower/regulate it and then the behavior happened. They tended to misperceive the severity of their crime, believe that they will win an appeal, be granted clemency, and frequently failed to understand how society regards their crimes. Such offenders were often not cognizant of the consequences of engaging in sexually deviant behavior or becoming involved with someone who suggested this behavior (co-offender). They also tended to blame their co-offender, their parents, their lawyer, and past abusers rather than themselves (failure to accept responsibility). One woman even blamed her minor victim, saying he raped her and stated he "should burn in hell." Therefore, the data/clinical impressions shed light on these females which can help in assessment, treatment, and management. Clinicians/researchers need to be aware of the subtle differences in relation male sexual offenders.

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