Publication des articles – janvier 2019

Voici les publications scientifiques des membres de l’Institut au courant du mois de janvier.


1Johanne-Lucine Rouleau, chercheure associée à l’Institut national de psychiatrie légale Philippe-Pinel ainsi que professeure agrégée au département de psychologie de l’Université de Montréal (UdeM).

Response inhibition is defined as one’s ability to voluntarily override an automatic or already initiated action when that action is inappropriate. Although a core mechanism of self-control, its association with sexual coercion perpetration and the impact of erotic cues on its exertion remain unknown. According to a domain-specific perspective on impulsivity, response inhibition performances should be disproportionately hindered by sexual cues in sexual coercion perpetrators. In total, 94 male college students completed a stop-signal task that included neutral, emotional, and erotic distracters. Results showed that men who reported past use of sexual coercion obtained overall poorer stop-signal task (SST) performances. Highly arousing sexual stimuli equally hindered the performances of perpetrators and non-perpetrators, whereas moderately arousing sexual and nonsexual positive stimuli did not significantly affect performances. Results do not support a domain-specific perspective on the link between response inhibition and sexual coercion, but rather suggest generally poorer inhibitory control among sexual coercion perpetrators.


1Jeanne Vachon, adjointe à la directrice de la recherche et de l’enseignement universitaire de l’Institut.
2Gilles Côté, chercheur régulier à l’Institut, professeur associé au département de psychologie de l’Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières et au département de psychiatrie et d’addictologie de l’UdeM.

Objectives Mental, personality and substance use disorders are over represented among prisoners and aggressive individuals. The psychopathological and biological markers linked to mental functioning remain still unclear. In particular, the role of trace elements in mental illness is still matter of debate. Here, we investigated whether trace elements are correlated to specific psychopathological phenotype groups. Methods Axis I and II disorders, aggression, impulsivity, adult attention deficit/hyperactivity disorders (ADHD) indices and serum levels of zinc, copper and cadmium were evaluated in 160 male prisoners. Results Using latent class analysis we could
subdivide prisoners into three distinct psychopathological classes: Class 1 characterized by low prevalence of aggression, personality disorders and substance abuse/dependence (alcohol, cannabis, cocaine); Class 2 represented by low prevalence of aggression and high prevalence of personality disorders and substance abuse/dependence; Class 3 defined by high prevalence of aggression, personality disorders and substance abuse/dependence. Serum levels of zinc were higher in Class 2 and 3 compared to Class 1. Moreover, Class 3 was associated with higher scores of impulsivity and ADHD indices. Conclusion Our results suggest that impulsivity but also adult ADHD indices are related to aggressive behaviour, and higher zinc levels are linked to personality disorders and addictions, but not to aggression.


¹Jean Proulx, chercheur régulier à l’Institut ainsi que directeur et professeur titulaire à l’École de criminologie de l’UdeM.

This study analyzed the evolution over time of the activity of consumers of child sexual exploitation material (CSEM). To this end, images and metadata were extracted from the hard drives of 40 individuals convicted of possession of child pornography and analyzed. A sample of these images (N = 61,244) was categorized by the age of the subjects depicted and—using the Combating Paedophile Information Networks in Europe (COPINE) scale—by severity of the acts depicted. Collecting activity was observed to follow four patterns. The most prevalent pattern was a progressive decrease in the age of the person depicted and a progressive increase in the severity of the sexual acts. In light of the results, we propose four explanations of the nature of, and variations in, child-pornography collections.


¹idem

The objective of this study was to develop a psychosocial profile of sexual murderers and characterize their life context at the moment they decided to commit homicide—in some cases, on repeated occasions. To this end, serial sexual murderers (SSMs, n = 33) and nonserial sexual murderers (NSMs, n = 87) were compared in terms of sociodemographic characteristics, general and sexual lifestyles, criminal behaviors, cognitions, stressful events, and motivation to commit sexual homicide. The results of this study indicate that sexual murderers are marginalized individuals who are dissatisfied with their lives and whose crimes are triggered by stressful events. However, unlike NSMs, SSMs have a psychosocial profile and the criminal skills that allow them to avoid arousing the suspicion of neighbors and police. Moreover, the sexual tension they experience daily motivates them to commit carefully planned crimes. Taken together, these characteristics partially explain why these individuals are more likely than NSMs to commit a series of sexual homicides. While sexual homicide is an extreme phenomenon, it is nevertheless primarily committed by individuals whose characteristics resemble those of individuals who commit less spectacular crimes. It is thus not surprising that psychological theories of sexual assault and criminological theories are suitable for the study of this phenomenon.
Familicides have received relatively little attention and are mostly discussed in studies with broader aims. Here, we reviewed 67 studies from 18 countries on familicides, in which an offender killed or attempted to kill their current or former spouse/intimate partner and one or more of their biological or stepchildren. We conducted a systematic literature search in PubMed, PsycINFO, and Google Scholar. Eight studies investigated familicide specifically, while the remaining reported on familicide cases as a subsample. We retrieved data on offenders’ gender, age, and background as well as on victims and their relationship to the offender. We also retrieved data on contextual factors and offense characteristics (i.e., modus operandi, offense location, premeditation, and whether or not the offender had committed suicide). We also coded methodological aspects of the studies. Familicides were almost exclusively committed by men and about half of the familicide cases led to the suicide of the offender. Mental health problems, relationship problems, and financial difficulties were prevalent. Because few studies reported population base rates of the investigated characteristics, it is difficult to draw conclusions about specific risk factors. Future research should further investigate typologies of familicide and examine risk factors for different types of familicides.
Direction de la recherche et de l’enseignement universitaire

involvement among Housing First participants. Conclusions: This systematic review suggests that Housing First, on average, has little impact on criminal justice involvement. Community services such as Housing First are potentially an important setting to put in place strategies to reduce criminal justice involvement. However, forensic mental health approaches such as risk assessment and management strategies and interventions may need to be integrated into existing services to better address potential underlying individual criminogenic risk factors. Further outcome assessment studies would be necessary.


1 Geneviève Parent, chercheure régulière à l’Institut, professeure au département de psychoéducation et psychologie de l’Université du Québec en Outaouais ainsi que professeure associée au département de criminologie de l’UdeM.

Background An important obstacle for family reunification following child placement in residential care and other temporary out-of-home care services is the lack of engagement among parents. Objective The aim of this meta-analysis is to identify the most effective interventions to promote parental engagement and family reunification. Method and participants Eight studies, for a total of 2996 families, were used to conduct two series of meta-analyses. Each study examined the effectiveness of a goal-oriented parental engagement intervention, relative to a control group made up of parents who received standard services. Six moderators were analyzed: type of clinical modality, number of clinical strategies, sources of motivation for intervention, focus on the child care staff-parent relationship, child care staff training, and strategies to promote access to intervention. Results Results indicate that parents exposed to goal-oriented engagement interventions showed greater engagement (effect size d = 0.71, CI: 0.35–1.07, p < 0.001) and likelihood of reunification (effect size OR = 2.49, CI: 1.22–5.10, p < 0.05) than parents who received standard services. In particular, moderator analysis showed that parents who specifically participated in a family-focused intervention showed the highest engagement in comparison to parents involved in other types of interventions or who received standard services (effect size d = 1.08, CI: 0.58–1.59, p < 0.001). No moderators significantly explained heterogeneity of studies on family reunification. Conclusion Overall, the results underline the effectiveness of family-focused interventions to promote parental engagement. Nevertheless, greater knowledge on the mechanisms by which interventions can increase parents’ engagement and family reunification is still needed.


1 idem

Background Understanding public attitudes towards people with intellectual disability (ID) can help orient activities to promote the social inclusion of this group. The ATTitudes toward Intellectual Disability (ATTID) questionnaire is a validated 67-item tool used to assess attitudes towards people with ID from a multidimensional perspective. It is based on a five-factor model
tapping into cognitive, emotional and behavioural components of attitudes. In order to facilitate international research, the goal of this study was to develop a short version that would retain the long form’s psychometric properties. Methods Analyses were conducted on a sample of 1608 respondents who completed the full-length ATTID. A four-step test refinement procedure was used to reduce the number of items. The first two steps involved a Cronbach’s alpha analysis. Items retained were then reviewed to assess face validity. Correlations between factors were calculated, and a factor analysis was performed to compare the original and short forms. Results The number of items in the ATTID was reduced from 67 to 35. The short form maintained good overall reliability. The correlational pattern between factors in both the long and short form is generally the same. The factor analysis of the short form showed a similar five-factor structure with some loss of variance. Conclusions We recommend the short form be used when administration time is an issue, particularly in a research context. Replication studies with new samples are needed to further assess the psychometric properties of the ATTID-Short Form.


¹Pierre Pariseau-Legault, chercheur associé à l’Institut ainsi que professeur régulier au département des sciences infirmières de l’Université du Québec en Outaouais.

La légitimité scientifique de la recherche en sciences infirmières dépend de son adhésion à différents critères de scientificité. Malgré l’absence de consensus à l’égard de critères prédéterminés, la réflexivité est abondamment discutée afin d’établir la rigueur de la recherche qualitative. Malheureusement, à l’exception d’outils tels que le journal de bord, peu de choses sont dites sur la manière dont la réflexivité peut être démontrée. Plusieurs recherches récentes suggèrent la pertinence de l’auto-ethnographie afin d’appuyer la démarche réflexive du chercheur en sciences infirmières. Inspiré par les constats d’une auto-ethnographie et d’une recension des écrits, cet article s’intéresse à la manière dont cette approche peut contribuer à la réflexivité du chercheur en sciences infirmières. L’auto-ethnographie semble particulièrement adaptée au contexte professionnel et académique dans lequel évoluent plusieurs infirmières. En tant qu’outil réflexif, cette approche peut notamment favoriser le développement de la conscience de soi, proposer des outils analytiques permettant de mieux comprendre l’influence d’expériences préalables sur le rapport à la recherche et rendre compte de la transition opérée entre différentes identités professionnelles. Afin d’alimenter le débat relatif à l’usage de l’auto-ethnographie en recherche qualitative, différents éléments centraux à cette approche sont discutés.

Une copie de chaque article est disponible au Centre de documentation si vous voulez les consulter. Si vous voulez recevoir la veille sur les nouvelles publications par courriel, veuillez contacter l’agente d’information Hongyue Pan à l’adresse hongyue.pan.ippm@ssss.gouv.qc.ca.

Bonne lecture!