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How Sadistic Behavior and its Correlation to Sexual Coercion Leads to Fetishes and Sexual Aggression

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Abstract

In this literature review, we will be discussing how sadistic behavior, and its correlation to sexual coercion, leads to fetishes and sexual aggression. Studies, such as Robertson & Knight's, identify key defining aspects how sadism revolves around domination and control over victims. The study conducted by Robertson & Knight comprised of 314 sadistic incarcerated male sex offenders who were given the PCL-R which was able to significantly predict all sexual violence factors. Additionally, within a second group comprised of 599 participants, they were deemed sexually dangerous due to results predicting violence, physical control, and sexual behavior. The researchers concluded that sadism is highly correlated with sexual violence. Sadism falls under the larger umbrella of paraphilias which include: Necrophilia, psychopathy, and sexual sadism (sexual coercion and sexual aggression). The serial killer, Jerome Henry Brudos, exemplified this idea. Brudos had a domineering mother and was said to be of lower intellectual capacity. Brudos was a sexual sadist, who had the co-morbidity of necrophilia and fetishism, in result he became a violent serial killer.

Keywords: *Necrophilia, psychopathy, sexual aggression, sexual coercion, sexual sadism.*

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Sadism and Related Paraphilias

Jerome “Jerry” Henry Brudos was born on January 31, 1939 in Webster, South Dakota. Brudos was the youngest of two children. When Brudos was a young child (5 years old) he discovered a pair of women’s high heels (Raine, 2013). This first encounter with high heels started his fascination for shoes, which later led to Brudos developing a fetish for women shoes. This shoe fetish led to him to try to also acquire women undergarments (Raine, 2013). In order to satisfy his fetishes, Brudos would violently attack, rape, and sodomize his victims (Raine, 2013). Following his attacks, he was able to take his victims undergarments and shoes, then would cut out a specific part of his victim’s body in order to keep it as a trophy that he could later look back on (Raine, 2013). Brudos would specifically target his victims depending on the shoes that the woman was wearing (Raine, 2013). If he liked the shoes that his potential victim was wearing, he would attack her. Jerry Brudos soon became known as “the lust killer,” and “the shoe fetish killer (Raine, 2013). Jerry Brudos was living in the state of Oregon when he murdered four women (Jerome Brudos biography, 2008). He utilized the same technique to murder the four women where he would strangle the women and then rape them (Raine, 2013). As a way to get dates with women, Brudos would call college female students and ask them if they wanted to go out on dates with him (Raine, 2013). The reason why he was

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caught by the police was because a college student reported getting calls from an old man seeking to date college women, which led to the police successfully tracking him down (Jerome Brudos biography, 2008). Brudos committed the four murders between January 26, 1968 and April 22, 1969 (Jerome Brudos biography, 2008). Brudos abducted and attempted to murder two additional women but did not succeed at doing so. Brudos was arrested on May 25, 1969, and was given a life sentence. He died in prison on March 28, 2006 due to cancer (Jerome Brudos biography, 2008).

Review of Literature

In this paper, we will discuss the similarities between sexual coercion and other personality disorders that are closely linked to paraphilias such as: psychopathy, necrophilia, and sadism-fetishism. We also review how biological factors play a key role in individuals with paraphilias which are closely related to antisocial personality disorder. Our focus will be on how individuals with paraphilias and antisocial personality disorder engage in violence and sexual assault or behavior. Individuals with psychopathy and sadism show a higher percentage of becoming violent and engaging in sexual coercion. Antisocial personality disorder and sadism-paraphilia (fetishism-necrophilia) are all closely related and linked by the same sexual aggression drive that fuels individuals to engage in dangerous and incriminating behavior. Using evidence from past

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studies, books that focus on the correlation between violence, and sexual coercion. Individuals who exhibit certain paraphilias or psychopathy features, may be more prone to developing antisocial personality disorder.

Necrophilia

Summary

A new classification of necrophilia by Anil Aggrawal lists and explains 10 different variations of necrophilia (Aggrawal, 2008). The journal begins by defining the concept of necrophilia and explaining that there are many other disorders, such as sadism, cannibalism, and vampirism, that are associated with necrophilia (Aggrawal, 2008). Aggrawal states that at the time the article was published, there was not any specific classification of the levels of necrophilia (Aggrawal, 2008). In a new classification of necrophilia, Aggrawal describes class 1 necrophiliacs, which are known as role players, as the least dangerous because those individuals do not have sex with dead people but become aroused from having intercourse with someone who is pretending to be dead (Aggrawal, 2008). Class 2 and 3 necrophiliacs are also described as not dangerous because they do not have physical intercourse with dead bodies (Aggrawal, 2008). These individuals usually fantasize about having sex with the dead, but do not actually act on their fantasies (Aggrawal, 2008). Aggrawal states that class 4 necrophiliacs, also known as tactile necrophiliacs, feel

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pleasure from touching a dead body in an erotic manner (Aggrawal, 2008). Class 5, 6, 7, and 8 necrophiliacs are categorized as dangerous because, although they do not have sex with dead bodies, these individuals have fetishes, masturbate at the sight of dead bodies, and if given the opportunity, would have sex with a dead body (Aggrawal, 2008). Aggrawal finishes by stating that Class 9 and 10 are the most dangerous types of necrophiliacs because they kill to have intercourse with the dead bodies (Aggrawal, 2008).

Synthesis

The case of Jerome Henry Brudos involved him performing necrophilia related crimes (Vronsky, 2004). Brudos was known for murdering women due to a shoe fetish that he had from a very young age (Vronsky, 2004). He was convicted of murdering women because he carefully selected them based on whether or not he liked the shoes that they were wearing during the time when he first saw them (Vronsky, 2004). His crimes are examples of the type of behaviors that necrophiliacs tend to possess. According to Aggrawal's classification of the 10 various categories of necrophilia, Brudos committed different crimes and portrayed certain behaviors that could easily classify him under four of the 10 categories. After murdering and decapitating his victim's bodies, Brudos would personally keep a certain part of their body as a trophy (Vronsky, 2004). Aggrawal described that type of necrophilia as fetishistic

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necrophilia (Aggrawal, 2008). But, the most dangerous category that Brudos was part of was the homicidal necrophile category (Aggrawal, 2008). Homicidal necrophiles are considered the most dangerous because those individuals kill in order to have sex with the dead bodies (Aggrawal, 2008).

Psychopathy

Summary

Both psychopathic and sexual sadists demonstrated emotional detachment and are prepared to inflict injury or pain to others (Mokros, A., Osterheider, M., Hucker S. J., & Nitschke, J., 2011). Sexual sadism focused on sexual arousal from fantasies, and acts or urges of inflicting pain to another person (Mokros et al., 2011). The researchers conducted a study that investigated the forensic sample of 100 male patients whom are all sex offenders and constructed a unified concept of sexual sadism and psychopathy that is empirically tested (Mokros et al., 2011). Half of the sample that is used in this research were sex offenders who are sexual sadists (Mokros et al., 2011). Data is compared from another path model where deficits are found in behavior and precursors to sexual sadistic conduct (Mokros et al., 2011).

Synthesis

In *Anatomy of Violence* (2013), Adriane Raine argued that there are biological factors in humans that made men more aggressive and capable of

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committing violent acts. The Anatomy of Violence (2013), suggested that the "monoamine oxidase A gene," also known as the MAOA gene, plays a critical part in human aggression, additionally known as the "Warrior gene".

MAOA gene is responsible for the stabilization of several neurotransmitters that undertake in attention, impulse control, and other cognitive functions. In The Anatomy of Violence (2013), researchers Caspi and Moffitt found that children who endured severe abuse, combined with low levels of MAOA, would go on to develop an antisocial personality disorder later in life. Researchers Mokros et al. (2011), also acknowledged the potential relevance between traumatic experiences through physical, sexual, or emotional abuse and the emergence sexual sadism which is related to antisocial disorder. By using psychodynamic and cognitive behavioral theories, Mokros et al. (2011) also accepted that trauma in children may have provided initial coupling of sex, arousal, and violence which could lead to antisocial behavior later in life. Mokros et al. (2011) likewise conceded, with terms of etiology, that genetic factors seem more influential in individuals with antisocial and sexual sadism, rather than environmental or social experiences.

The Anatomy of Violence (2013) similarly finds a link, to some extent, with violent and aggressive behavior, which was also found in five studies from four years after the original finding of Caspi and Moffitt showing direct links between

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the low MAOA gene to antisocial personality behavior in those that have a history of abuse. In the studies of the low MAOA gene present in men and women, researchers found reports of higher lifelong aggressive behavior in both genders.

Sexual Coercion

Summary

Andreas Mokros et al. explains that individuals who are sexually gratified by the act of inflicting pain or humiliating others are predisposed to be sexually aggressive to nonconsenting partners, which suggests that these individuals are sadistic or sexually coercive. In this study, sexual sadism was functioning as comparative measure between the difference and areas of dimensionality between sexual sadism and sexual coercion by using an 11-item scale representing the items pertaining to actions taken at crime scenes (Mokros et al., 2014). Participants were given different scenario descriptions of sexual violence with injury, while others were given descriptions of sexual violence without injury (Mokros et al., 2014). Results show the three composites, the first obtained through the summation of power or domination, mutilation of non-genital body parts, and excessive violence and confinement of the victim. The second compromised of mutilation of the victim's genitalia and/or insertion of objects into the victim's bodily orifice. The third compared biographical associations,

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not directly linked to crime scene actions like the previous 2 composites (Mokros et al., 2014). Each of the three composites were heavily correlated to the diagnostic statistical manual of psychology's diagnosis of sadism which further supports the notion of sexual coercion (Mokros et al., 2014).

Synthesis

Mokros et al. (2014) suggest that sexual coercive disorder is to force a sexual situation onto a victim by pressuring, tricking, or threatening them into unwanted situations. Individuals who are sexually coercive are characterized as aggressive and powerful. Raine (2013) refers to a study conducted on the Mundurucu villagers of the Amazon basin and how children from an early start are weaned off with little to no parental involvement within a society that revolves around violence, in a sense setting the perfect conditions for molding antisocial and psychopathic personality disorders. Similarly, in *Serial Killers: The Method and Madness of Monsters* (2004), Peter Vronsky refers to several case studies where parental absence, specifically mother absence, results in children having to learn to fend for themselves. Additionally, Raine (2013) brings up the idea that men are inherently more aggressive, and their aggression may revolve around mate selection. A notable case is that of Jerry Brudos, who began stalking young women, knocking them down, and choking them into unconscious before fleeing with their shoes. Brudos also deceived and killed women in his

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basement, choosing his victims based on their shoes.

Sexual Sadism

Summary

In the article, *Relating sexual sadism and psychopathy to one another, non-sexual violence, and sexual crime behaviors* (2014) by Raymond Knight and Carrie Robertson, there was an astounding amount of evidence linking sexual sadists and psychopaths to sexual offending similar to non-sexual violence (Robertson & Knight, 2014). The study summarizes the use of empirical analyses of crime scenes to analyze the connection between sexual crime behaviors and elucidate behaviors conducted in two studies (Robertson & Knight, 2014). Sadist obtain sexual gratification from the physical and emotional suffering of others, Robertson & Knight (2014) state a psychopath's violence stems from a variety of reasons, including overreaction to perceived aggression or means to achieve a desired goal. All participants in the study were identified as sadistic and sexual offenders, comprised of 314 adult male sex offenders. They were given the MIDSA and archival records were pulled in order to complete the PCL-R. Results showed that sadism significantly predicted all non-sexual measures and all sexual violence factors as well.

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Synthesis

Robertson and Knight (2014) defined aspects to sexual sadism as deriving sexual excitement from inflicting physical or emotional pain to others. The *Anatomy of Violence* (2013) by Adrian Raine gives an informational insight on what possible structures might be involved in the lack of empathy and moral judgement (Robertson and Knight, 2014). The case of "Jolly Jane" gives crucial understanding into what underlying anatomical structures play a key role in psychopathy (Raine, 2013). Results showed people with high psychopathy scores showed reduced functioning in the amygdala during emotional, personal, and moral decision making, the disruption of the amygdala functioning during decision making is what is at the core of psychopathy (Raine, 2013). The findings support the notion behind lacking empathy in sadism due to a highly strong correlation between psychopathy and sadism, resulting in compromised decision making and possibly the enabler for an attacker to strike in order to feel a thrill or excitement.

Sexual Aggression

Summary

The article *The Sexual Responses of Sexual Sadists* by Seto, M. C., Harris, G. T., Lalumiere, M. L., & Chivers, M. L. is based on sexual sadism and how intense sexual fantasies inflict humiliation or pain to individuals can predispose them

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toward aggressive sexual acts on non-consensual victims. Data from male sexual offenders is analyzed and cross referenced to identify latent structure of the disorder (Seto et al., 2012). The researchers conducted a study to examine what the underlying causes of arousal in sadist individuals are and test sexual sadism in search for an explanation of rapists' arousal patterns (Seto et al., 2012). Researchers also developed a new phallometric test to measure sexual sadism for research and clinical applications since the original test had poor reliability and diagnostic features (Seto et al., 2012). Eighteen self-identified males, 22 males with some sadistic features, and 23 non-sadists were all compared in subjective and genital responses to a new set of stories that demonstrated injury/violence from non-consent/resistance cues (Seto et al., 2012). There were significant group differences found in the study that suggest that arousal involves injury/violence rather than non-consent/resistance cues.

Synthesis

Findings in *The Anatomy of Violence* (2013) showed that poor prefrontal functioning can predispose an individual to violence. From an emotional level, reduced prefrontal functioning can result in loss of control in the limbic system which regulates emotions like rage and anger. Research by Seto et al. (2012) provided support for the argument in *The Anatomy of Violence* (2013), by acknowledgement of group differences that were studied: rapists and

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non-rapists. Rapist exhibited equal or greater responses to rape stories than to mutual consenting stories, which showed that rapists are more predisposed to violence, whereas non-rapists responded greater to mutual consenting stories (Seto et al., 2012). The Anatomy of Violence (2013) discussed the angular gyrus in murderers and found a significant lower glucose metabolism which reduces blood flow into the cerebral area of the brain in violent and impulsive criminals. Researchers Seto et al. (2012) explained sexual sadism is an arousing pattern that cues violence, pain, and injury that draw out arousal and motivation to engage in violence acts such as committing rape, also explaining why sexual stories involving violence are preferred by rapists.

Methods

The research conducted demonstrated that that there is a correlation between sexual coercion, fetishes, and sexual aggression. Aggrawal explained that as of 2008, there were 10 variations of necrophilia. Aggrawal also explained that the concept of necrophilia is usually discussed with other paraphilia such as sadism, cannibalism and vampirism (2008). He discussed that not all 10 categories of necrophilia involve an individual having sexual intercourse with dead bodies (2008). When considering Brudos case, according to the information provided by Aggrawal, Brudos could be classified under four of the 10 categories: fetishistic necrophilia, necromutilomania, regular necrophilia, and

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homicidal necrophilia. Peter Fedoroff explained that sex and violence are two terms that are often correlated with one another (Fedoroff, 2008). In a study conducted by Fedoroff, it was discovered that it is common for men of all ages to have sexual fantasies that involved violence toward women (Fedoroff, 2008).

Psychopathy has been defined as the need to inflict pain onto others due to emotional detachment (Mokros et al., 2011). Psychopathy has been classified as a personality disorder by Mokros et al., due to the selfish traits and reckless behavior that psychopathic individuals express (Mokros et al., 2011). Mokros et al. stated that antisocialism and psychopathy have been two terms that overlap with one another (Mokros et al., 2011). Sexual coercive disorder involves individuals who feel sexual gratification by inflicting pain and being aggressive toward individuals who have not granted consent (Mokros et al., 2014). According to *The Anatomy of Violence* by Adrian Raine, individuals who possess sexual coercive disorder, are considered aggressive and powerful (Raine, 2013). Studies referred to by Peter Vronsky, author of *Serial Killers: Methods*, suggest that a mother's absence can lead to a child being antisocial and demonstrating other psychopathic personality behavior (Vronsky, 2004). Individuals who are sexual sadists have been classified as people who achieve sexual excitement by inflicting physical or emotional pain on an unsuspecting individual (Robertson &

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Knight, 2014). Studies by Robertson and Knight demonstrate that most individuals who are considered to be sadists are sexual offenders because they demonstrate all four crime behaviors such as: violence, physical control, sexual behavior, and paraphilia behavior (Robertson & Knight, 2014). Sexual aggression is similar because according to Seto et al., it occurs when a person wants to perform sexual activities without granted consent (Seto et al. 2012). Sexual aggression is also closely linked to sexual sadism (Seto et al. 2012).

Seto et al. (2012) studied underlying causes of arousal in sadistic inmates and found that sadists showed sexual arousal through stories of violence or injury more than other individuals. This demonstrated a strong correlation among sadists, sexual coercion, and violent behavior. *The Anatomy of Violence* (2013) discussed the link between violent and aggressive behavior and a low MAOA gene link to antisocial behavior and history of abuse. Poor prefrontal functioning has been linked to predispose an individual to violence and can also result in loss of control in the limbic system which regulates emotions like rage and anger. Seto et al. (2012) and Makros et. al (2013), both found that sadistic individuals exhibited sexual aggression when analyzing data that pertained to them. Sexual aggression and violence are the key factors to why sadistic and antisocial individuals engage in activities that display these key features.

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Results show a correlation between sadism, sexual aggression and paraphilias. Researchers Robertson & Knight's (2014) study comprised of 314 sentenced sadists who took the Multidimensional Inventory of Development, Sex and Aggression (MIDSA). Archival records were pulled to complete the Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R) to identify an individual's psychopathic or antisocial traits. Researchers found that individuals who were sadistic, predicted all non-sexual violence and sexual violence measures on the PCL-R. Sadism is a disorder that falls under the broader umbrella of paraphilias where aggression is shown.

Results

Results conclude that paraphilia and aggression play a role in understanding how brain injuries or poor prefrontal functioning has adverse effects on individuals. Additionally, genetics play a crucial role in understanding the physiological make up of individuals. Paraphilia, is a wider umbrella for several disorders that fall under the paraphilic designation such as necrophilia, sexual sadism, and cross dressing, which are typically accompanied with aggressive behaviors. The aggression can partially be explained by low prefrontal functioning allowing for lower executive functions and heightened aggression, combined with low levels of the MAOA gene that increases someone's violent nature.

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Discussion

The primary focus of our research was to find out if there was a correlation between sadistic behavior and sexual coercion. After further research, we found there exists a correlation between sexual aggression/violence and sadistic behavior. Research by Seto et al. (2012) measured underlying causes of arousal in sadistic individuals and found that when shown stories of violence or injury, the subjects showed a significant sexual arousal response than other individuals.

Another study by Robertson & Knight (2014) demonstrated that individuals with sadism were able to predict sexual violence factors within the PCL-R, which also showed how individuals with sadism are more prone to sexual aggression and violence. Morkros et al.'s (2011) study correlated how psychopathy and antisocial behavior is closely linked and plays a major role in models that motivate individuals to commit acts of sexual aggression. Another study that supported our research question was by Fedoroff, which found that in most cases, there is a high correlation in the relationship between sex and violence (Fedoroff, 2008).

The Anatomy of Violence (2013) also finds a link with violent and aggressive behavior, which was found in five studies from four years after the original finding of Caspi and Moffitt, which both found direct links of a low MAOA gene and antisocial personality behavior in those that have a history of abuse.

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Researcher Aggrawal's (2008) findings also correspond with how sadistic behavior can correlate with sexual coercion, stating that class 9 and 10 necrophiliacs will engage in very dangerous activities to be able to have sex with corpses, even if it requires the individual to kill another individual. The research obstacles we encountered during our research was that there were not enough articles available that focused solely on sadism. When we searched for main keywords in the online database, we had to search for broader themes such as paraphilias, or antisocial disorder to yield some results. We found the databases PsycARTICLES, PsycINFO, and EBSCOhost helpful and they had many articles that we were able to use for our research. The articles from PsycARTICLES that we found that we wanted to use in the were outdated, and the results would not filter out the outdated articles even when the settings were changed.

Not many articles were available for our topic on paraphilias, we had to search through all of the available databases and try to find what was available. Some limitations that the studies had were that they only looked at a certain sample population, for example, Morkros et al. (2011) only sampled inmates from one psychiatric hospital. For future research, a larger population sample would be best to use as it would likely increase the reliability of the research.

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Conclusion

In this literature review we defined the terms: necrophilia, psychopathy, sexual aggression, sexual coercion, and sexual sadism. The review provided research that connected the terms that were defined to Jerry Brudos' murder cases. Each term was specifically tied to a different aspect that composed Brudos' case. Each defined term was also connected to other popular book sources that provided a psychological reason for certain behavior that Brudos demonstrated as an attacker and a murderer. The literature review also provided specific instances in which the research being conducted was limited and provided reasoning as to why certain terms were either connected or not to Jerome Brudos' case. In order to further expand the knowledge that psychologists currently have regarding what motivates an individual to act on their violent thoughts and fantasies, psychologists will need to perform more studies on individuals who demonstrate traits similar to sadistic murders. Psychologists will also have to perform those studies on individuals who are young in age, in order to be able to find possible psychological reasons that might motivate a person to commit a murder and to be able to provide a treatment before they act on their violent thoughts.

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