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Message from the Chair

Patrick Baillie, Ph.D., LL.B.

While frequently paraphrased, when Sir Isaac Newton wrote to Robert Hooke in 1675, he said, "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants." As I pen* my first column for Crime Scene, I am well aware of the giants of psychology in Canada – new, active, retired, and gone – whose sturdy shoulders have allowed me to see further and do more. Many of those giants have been members of the Criminal Justice Psychology Section (CJPS) of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) or have had a marked impact on the fields of police psychology, forensic psychology, risk assessment, and treatment, among other domains. When not having the benefit of their shoulders, I merely follow along in their very large footprints.

I recognize the danger in creating a list of names, knowing that some folks will be missed or forgotten. Still, to give credit where it is due, I look at the members of our section who have recently been honoured by the Canadian Psychological Association as Fellows or other award recipients, in recognition of their exceptional work as practitioners, researchers, teachers, and clinical supervisors. I look at people like Karl Hanson and Michael Seto, whose work has had a profound international influence on risk assessment and sexual offending. I see people like Mary Ann Campbell and Sandy Jung, doing important research on evidence-based policing and Interpersonal Violence and having a significant role in the education and training of the next generation of psychologists. I think of clinicians like the late Keith MacFarlane, Marc Nesca, or my long-ago supervisor, Tom Dalby, each of whom brought scholarship and humanity to their

work. Of course, some of these folks may see their names and object to the category in which I have placed them. Fair enough, because, for most, their skills and gifts crossed boundaries of teaching, research, and practice.

And those are just a few of the people I have had the privilege to know personally. There are many others (Nina Fusco, Pamela Yates, Joanna Kayfitz, Zoe Hilton, Eleanor Gittens, Keira Stockdale, for example) who I've met since joining the Executive of the CJPS and who have given much to the profession. And there are those about to make a big difference in the field (such as Chatel Schafers, Alexandra Zidenberg, and Christopher Lively, all of whom were recipients of the J. Stephen Wormith Graduate Research Award in recent years). For this year's Convention in Ottawa (June 21-23), we received 66 submissions for presentations and posters, showing tantalizing new ideas, insightful data, and an abundance of enthusiasm for moving us forward.

The work that these folks have done and are doing makes a difference. But, we have a ways to go. Some of our research has been misconstrued, over-generalized, or poorly designed. We have contributed to injustices that need to be corrected. We need to avoid perpetuating harms that stem from race, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other inherent personal characteristics that were overlooked or otherwise not addressed in our work. We have lots more to do.

For me, though, one of the greatest pleasures has come from how accessible and responsive so many of the giants have been. They have been friends and mentors, always willing to take a call or answer an email. And they've done that for others, too.

So I encourage you to come to Convention. I'm sure Karl or Michael or Nina or Christopher or Eleanor (when she's not busy being CPA President) and others will be happy to share a beverage with you. Gentle giants.

*No pens were used in the actual composition of this piece.





Section Report on the National Associations Active in Criminal Justice (NAACJ)

Pamela M. Yates, Ph.D., R.Psych.

The National Associations Active in Criminal Justice (NAACJ) is an organization that exists to support its diverse national member organizations in their efforts to provide leadership in various areas of justice. The mission of the NAACJ is to enhance the capacity of member organizations to contribute to a just, fair, equitable, and effective justice system.

Member organizations are diverse. The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) has been a longstanding member, represented by J. Stephen Wormith via the Criminal Justice Section (CJS) for many years. Examples of NAACJ member organizations include the John Howard Society of Canada, the Native Counselling Services of Alberta, the Canadian Criminal Justice Association, and the Association des Services de Réhabilitation Sociale du Québec, to name just a few.

The goals of the NAACJ include contributing to the education of its member organizations, government, the voluntary sector, and the public in relation to current and emerging criminal justice issues and enhancing capacity to address these issues.

In 2022-2023, a significant activity of the NAACJ has been to advance community corrections by conducting research and providing input into the Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism (FFRR) (<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/2022-fdrl-frmwrk-rdc-rcdvsm/index-en.aspx>). Approximately 41% of the Canadian federal correctional population resides in the community, yet only 6.5% of the Correctional Services Canada's \$2.6 billion budget is allocated

to community supervision¹. Thus, recommendations broadly included: increasing support for offenders reintegrating into the community; addressing factors such as safe and secure housing; enhancing employment opportunities; and increasing access to appropriate health and mental health care. Activities in support of this work included research, collaboration amongst NAACJ member organizations, consultation with Public Safety Canada and Correctional Service Canada, and working with various individuals and groups both within and outside government.

This work with the FFRR is just one of many initiatives. The CJS representative also is a board member of the NAACJ, so there always is interesting work to do. The Board meets regularly for quarterly meetings, with additional committee meetings for special projects such as the FFRR. In September 2023, after many virtual meetings, the NAACJ Board was able to meet in person in Ottawa for its Annual General Meeting. Meeting topics included high profile offenders, strategies to manage security threat groups, structured intervention units, and CSC's Anti-Racism Framework.

If you would like to learn more or have an interest in the work of the NAACJ, please get in touch at dr.pamela.yates@gmail.com.

Footnote

¹ See section B. 3. of Public Safety Canada's *Corrections and Conditional Release Statistical Overview 2020*; and, "Budgetary planning summary for core responsibilities and Internal Services" in CSC's *2021-22 Departmental Plan*.



SUMMARY OF THE 5TH NORTH AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE (N5)



A Look Back at N5

N. Zoe Hilton, Ph.D., C.Psych.
N5 Steering Committee Chair

In June 2023, nearly 300 psychology researchers, practitioners, and students gathered in Toronto for the 5th North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference (N5). The conference was organized around the theme, *Toward a Justice System that Works* - for the individuals involved in the system, and for those who provide services. Delegates came from 10 Canadian provinces and territories, 12 U.S states, and from Australia, New Zealand, Europe, and the United Kingdom.

We started off with a pre-convention workshop by Dr. Karl Hanson, who taught us how to find dynamic risk factors using survival analysis with time-dependent covariates. Then we launched into three days packed with sessions on a breadth of topics covering offending, assessment, and correctional treatment. As well as sessions on research and theory, there was plenty of discussion on issues regarding gender, risk, and perceptions of offending, as well as challenges such as racial bias and public attitudes facing correctional and criminal justice psychology.

We were very pleased to host keynote talks by several eminent scholars. Friday morning opened with a most welcome talk by Dr. Glenn Walters from Kutztown University, Pennsylvania, on "Reducing Delinquency by Changing Environments and Building Competencies." This was followed in the afternoon by Dr. Gina Vincent from the University of Massachusetts who gave an informative and evidence-based presentation on the challenging topic of "Risk Assessment: Racist Algorithms or a Method for Reducing Disparities?" Dr. Vivienne de Vogel, from Maastricht University and the University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, gave us a captivating update on "Gender Matters: Towards More Gender-Responsive Approaches in Criminal Justice Settings," followed by Dr. Paul Gill's keynote talk on the timely and fascinating issues of "Extremism Risk Assessment and Management." Dr. Shadd Maruna was the Criminal Justice Psychology Section's nominated presenter to the full CPA conference, with a talk on "Risk and Redemption." He spoke to a huge room that was packed on a Sunday morning, and he certainly stimulated a lively discussion afterwards among the attendees! All our keynote speakers spent much



appreciated time with student delegates after their talks in more intimate “meet the speaker” sessions.

Congratulations!

The Criminal Justice Psychology Section reception and awards banquet was a well attended highlight of the conference. Well earned congratulations to the Don Andrews Career Contribution Award recipient, Dr. Franca Cortoni! Congratulations also to Dr. Christopher Lively who won the J. Stephen Wormith graduate Research Award. We also had a super impressive poster session. Undergraduate poster prize winners were Josh Mulingbayan (1st place) and Sahil Thorul (2nd place), and graduate winners were Alexia Vettesse (1st place) and Myles Davidson (2nd place). Congrats also to the travel award winners Samuel Freeze and Tianshuang Han.

Thank yous!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank in print the members of the N5 Conference Steering Committee members who have been a real pleasure to work with as we planned this conference together during the past 4 years. Special thanks to Joe Camilleri, who is moving on after having been with us since N1 back in 2007. Over this time, Joe has served as the volunteer coordinator, a marketing committee member, chair of N4, and chair of the N5 marketing committee. Daryl Kroner has also been a highly valued and long-serving member of the committee since the start of the N-conferences and is generously staying on while the committee transitions to preparing for N6. Jim Cheston has also been a steadfast and reliable member of the committee since N2, and his influence will be felt into N6. Thank you for these years of service! Other N5 team members Joanna Hessen-Kayfitz, Devon Polaschek, and Femina Varghese will be forming the N6 committee along with new member Brandon Sparks. Thanks also to N5 Marketing Committee members Ashley Batastini, Joe Camilleri, Nick Farrelly, Allana Osborne, Katie Seidler, Brandon Sparks, Stephen Wong, and Sara Wotschell. And a shout out to Dr. Lisa Votta-

Bleeker, Kathly Lachapelle-Petrin, and Julie Auger from CPA for their tireless and cheerful support.

N6 is Coming...!

N5 was a wonderful reminder of what a fabulous, collegial, and fun time we have when CPA Criminal Justice Psychology Section folks and our international colleagues gather at the N-conferences and it was superb to be together again.





2023 Don Andrews Career Contribution Award Winner: Dr. Franca Cortoni

Champion of Evidence-Based Practices in Criminal Justice Psychology

Sandy Jung, Ph.D., R.Psych
R. Karl Hanson, Ph.D., C.Psych
Sarah Paquette, Ph.D.

Dr. Franca Cortoni is the 2023 recipient of the Don Andrews Career Contribution Award. This award recognizes psychologists who have contributed a body of work that makes significant, lasting contributions to our understanding and practices in criminal justice psychology. Over the course of her 30 year career, she has not only advanced knowledge, she has led the implementation of evidence-based rehabilitation (particularly *dans la francophonie*), and has been a long-term supporter of the Criminal Justice Section, and related professional organizations. Franca's advocacy for evidence-based practice had led to remarkable progress and improvements in sexual violence policies state-wide, nationally, and globally. Her mentorship has opened the door to the next generation of researchers and advocates in our field. We would not be where we are today without her.

From a purely quantitative perspective, Franca's research contributions are outstanding: 34 peer reviewed publications; 45 book chapters, 1 sole-authored book, 4 edited books; and 9 research reports for Correctional Service Canada. Her scholarly work has an h-index of 30 (i.e., measure of both the productivity and citation impact of the researcher's publications) and her publications have been cited well over 4,000 times (4,113 citations, as of 23 Oct 2023).

Franca values collaboration. She strongly believes that to advance evidence-based practices and policies, we must do this together. She has demonstrated the effectiveness of such collaborations in the field of sexual offending, as evidenced by her long list of co-authors, frequent public speaking engagements, international conference presentations, and successful grant applications. Her prestigious grants include significant funds from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). These grants have ranged from \$23,000 to over \$400,000 USD. Notable is her recent collaboration with Dr. Michael Miner, which led to a prestigious National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) grant for \$416,407 USD to support her research focused on tertiary prevention of child sexual abuse (i.e., psychological interventions for individuals at risk for sexual recidivism).

The impact of her research can be seen by the large number of invited keynote presentations, specialized trainings, and her mobilization of knowledge through news media. Franca has been invited to present both nationally (in Canada and the U.S.), and abroad (Japan, Belgium,



France, Germany, China, Australia, U.K.). Similarly, she has been solicited for her expertise and given workshop trainings in Canada, U.S., U.K., and Australia. A quick search of Franca's media presence brings up a number of interviews with local, national, and international news outlets on a variety of topics ranging from [parole decisions](#) to [sentencing](#), and [sex offender registries and notifications](#) to [female sex offenders](#) in both English and French news outlets.

One of Franca's important intellectual contributions was connecting sexualized coping with sexual offending. During the 1990s, mainstream clinical psychology was investing heavily in the stress-and-coping paradigm, with a focus on distinguishing between successful and problematic coping styles. Among the problematic coping styles was emotion-focused coping by which we escape bad feelings through substance use, eating, overwork, or . . . sex. Quite separately, professionals were struggling to develop effective treatment programs for reducing the risk of sexual recidivism. Although Don Andrews' Risk/Need/Responsivity model was gaining traction among practitioners at that time, there was considerable uncertainty concerning the criminogenic needs of men who have committed sexual offences. Franca's stroke of genius was identifying sexualized coping as an important psychological problem for men at risk for sexual offending (Cortoni & Marshall, 2001). Although we may take it for granted now, it was far from obvious at the time. We now know that sexualized coping is more common among men with a history of sexual offending (about one in three) than men the general population (about one in ten), and this problematic coping style can be reliably identified in routine correctional practice. Importantly, it is one of the better psychological risk factors for sexual recidivism. Based on nine studies ($n = 5975$), one of our studies found that men who used sex to cope with negative emotions were 58% more likely to sexually reoffend than other men with a history of sexual offending who did not use this coping style (Brankley et al., 2021). There are dozens, perhaps hundreds, of other studies that have explored the connections between sexualized coping, sexual preoccupations,

and serious sexual transgressions. It would be rare for any contemporary sexual recidivism treatment program not to include some discussion of sexualized coping. All this we owe to her. Although it is quite possible that someone else would have eventually made these connections, Franca did it first. For this, she deserves recognition.

Her other major intellectual contribution—something that Franca is most known for—was establishing the empirical and conceptual foundations for the assessment and treatment of women who have sexually offended. She is perhaps the world's leading expert on this topic. She has carefully and patiently organized the limited empirical data available (e.g., Cortoni, 2011; 2015). Her two books on the topic (Cortoni, 2018; Gannon & Cortoni, 2010) are the best available for practitioners seeking practical guidance for evidence-based interventions. One important theme in Franca's approach is that *women are not men*: in other words, our rehabilitation efforts must consider gender. Part of Franca's efforts have been documenting that sexual offending by women is real and needs to be taken seriously (Cortoni et al., 2017). Another part has explored the distinctive antecedents, motivations, offences patterns, and recidivism outcomes of women who have sexually offended. Compared to men who sexually offend, women are less likely to be motivated by atypical sexual interests and more likely to be motivated by relationships. These relationship issues include co-offending, as well as using sexual offending to hurt third-parties (e.g., sexually abusing the children of an ex-lover). Unless practitioners recognize gender specific types of sexual offending, they are unlikely to provide the necessary interventions. Franca has been instrumental in directing evaluators and therapists in the right direction.

Finally, Franca has demonstrated effective mentorship and leadership, not only to steer our field in the right direction but to ensure that there is a succession of future generations of researchers and clinicians that will carry the torch. Dr. Cortoni holds a full professor position at the University of

Montreal in the School of Criminology. As an academic scholar, she has had a significant impact on students and early career postdoctoral fellows over the years, which include 2 postdoctoral fellows, 7 doctoral students, 23 master's thesis students, as well as serving on the thesis committees for countless other graduate students. Generous as a mentor, most of her peer reviewed publications are first and co-authored by her advanced students or postdoctoral fellows.

Dr. Cortoni has also significantly served the practice, academic, and scientific community. She served as president of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA; 2017-2020), Director-at-large for the Criminal Justice Psychology Section (CJPS) of the Canadian Psychological Association. She also has been called to serve as an expert examiner for Her Majesty Prison Service (England) and Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (Sweden). Dr. Cortoni also selflessly volunteered her time to serve the academic community, as an associate editor for the Sexual Abuse journal (2015-2017) and Journal of Sexual Aggression (2009-2012; editorial member from 2012-2017). Also, she served the scientific community in a variety of ways, which include but is not limited to serving as a member of various scientific committees that include the International Francophone Conference on Sexual Aggression (2013, 2017), ATSA annual conference (2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2015), and International Center for Comparative Criminology (2012-2017).

Above and beyond these major contributions, Franca has advanced many intangible things that have left an impression and impact in our current criminal justice psychology world. First, the title of this award is quite fitting, as she has championed Don Andrews' RNR model in Canada, the US, and throughout the world, including Japan and other countries. Second, she has had a tremendous influence in French-speaking regions of the world (Québec, France, Belgium, to name just a few). Third, prior to entering her professor role at the University of Montreal in 2007, she was a psychologist in federal corrections, and this professional experience, gave her an edge on see-

ing things in a different, and practical light.

In closing, it was our honour to nominate Dr. Cortoni for her extraordinary contributions, and it is our good fortune to have known Franca collectively for 60+ years. She is an exceptional colleague, collaborator, mentor, and friend. And a great criminal justice psychologist.



(L to R): Dr. Sandy Jung, Dr. Franca Cortoni, and Dr. Karl Hanson



MEMBERS OF THE N5 STEERING COMMITTEE AND CJS EXECUTIVE



(Top photo, L to R): Members of the N5 Steering Committee— Dr. Zoe Hilton, Dr. Jim Cheston, Dr. Joanna Hessen-Kayfitz, Dr. Joe Camilleri, Dr. Daryl Kroner, Dr. Femina Varghese, & Dr. Devon Polaschek.

(Bottom photo, L to R): Members of the Criminal Justice Section Executive—Dr. Jim Cheston, Dr. Joanna Hessen-Kayfitz, Dr. Joe Camilleri, Dr. Nina Fusco, and Dr. Christopher Lively.

AWARD RECIPIENTS



(Top left photo, L to R): Student Poster Prizes—Dr. Maaïke Helmus (Judge and Awards Presenter), Josh Mulingbayan (1st place Undergraduate Winner), Sahil Thorul (2nd place Undergraduate Winner), Myles Davidson (2nd place Graduate Winner), and Alexia Vettesse (1st place Graduate Winner).

(Bottom left photo, L to R): J. Stephen Wormith Graduate Research Award—Dr. Patrick Baillie (Award Presenter), and Dr. Christopher Lively (Award Winner).

(Bottom right photo, L to R): Travel Awards—Dr. Zoe Hilton (Awards Presenter), Tianshuang Han and Samuel Freeze (Awards Winners).

(Top right photo, L to R): Don Andrews Career Contribution Award—Dr. Jean Proulx, Dr. Franca Cortoni (Award Winner), and Dr. Karl Hanson.

MEET THE SPEAKERS SESSIONS



(Top/Bottom photos): Roundtable discussions between keynote speakers and conference delegates during the meet the speaker sessions.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP



(Top photo): Dr. Karl Hanson led a pre-conference workshop about *How to find dynamic risk factors using survival analysis with time-dependent covariates*.

(Bottom photo): Pre-conference workshop attendees.

PANELISTS AND STUDENT PRESENTERS AT N5



(Top photo, L to R): Dr. Guy Bourgon, Dr. Raymond Chip Tafrate, Dr. Gina Vincent, and Dr. Daryl Kroner speaking as panelist.

(Bottom photo): A group of presenters (including many students!) at N5.

RESEARCH BRIEFS



Bridging the Gap: An Evaluation of Gender Responsive Programming Needs in a Forensic Setting

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Despite women being the fastest-growing population of individuals who are institutionalized for committing a criminal offence, gender-responsive programming is lacking (Public Safety Canada, 2020). In 2006, a study on the Review Board System in Canada found that 16% of the national population of those who were found Not Criminally Responsible on Account of Mental Disorder (NCRMD) were female (Latimer & Lawrence, 2006). Feminist criminologists have documented and demonstrated that, compared to males, women have unique risk factors and pathways to criminal behaviour, contributing to experts advocating for services and programs to be reflective of gender-specific factors (Nicholls et al., 2015). With an increased likelihood of experiencing victimization, there is a substantial overlap in women's maladaptive coping strategies (ie., substance use, self-harm, etc.), poor mental health, and involvement with the criminal justice system (Canadian Women's Foundation, 2014; Agnew, 1992). This connection between maladaptive coping and criminal justice system involvement speaks to the need to recognize women's challenges while in foren-

sic psychiatric settings and the importance of adequate support being available during hospitalization (Canadian Women's Foundation, 2014).

The criminal justice system aims to be founded on equality, treating all the same regardless of their circumstances. However, effective services are based on equity to ensure unique needs are considered (Covington & Bloom, 2003). Relatively low rates of recidivism for women contribute to the limited research and resources available to support the care and needs of female forensic patients, and in turn, research and practices often focus on male experiences and frequently neglect women's needs (Latimer & Lawrence, 2006; Nicholls et al., 2009; Penney et al., 2018). The Canadian Psychological Association's (2007) guidelines for psychologists advises that they consider appropriate, gender-responsive research and practice through an understanding that existing approaches often have ignored and pathologized women's experiences. Additionally, most research on female offending stems from re-

search in correctional settings, often neglecting other forensic settings (Nicholls et al., 2015). Compared to women who were sentenced to a correctional setting, those found NCRMD often are institutionalized for much lengthier periods, potentially resulting in lasting impacts on the perception of time management, relationships, and normalcy (Sinha, 2009). The guidelines for psychologists outlined by the Canadian Psychology Association (2007) describe the need to understand and recognize that female patients may have diverse identities and experience their lives in multiple contexts, with gender inequity being only one of their intersecting identities. Intersectionality is defined as people uniquely experiencing discrimination based on their overlapping identities (Oxford Dictionary, 2013). While women in the general community experience unique challenges (i.e., increased risk of sexual assault, trauma, mental illness, etc.), women living in forensic settings face unique challenges related to their gender. Women's experiences of gender, being found NCRMD, and residing in a forensic psychiatric hospital should be considered through an intersectional framework rather than viewed as independent of one another (Nicholls et al., 2015; Status of Women Canada, 2016).

Forensic programs in other countries, such as Australia, have adopted programming to target the unique needs of female forensic psychiatric patients. These programs focus on topics such as body image, self-esteem, sexual health and education, self-care, medication management, women's preventative health care, and healthy lifestyles. In Canada, there appears to be a gap in the services and programs offered to women in a forensic psychiatric hospital to address these gender-specific experiences and needs. A program focused on the unique obstacles that women experience in forensic psychiatric settings could decrease the likelihood of reoffending and contribute to female patients' overall success. However, the professional resources and funds allocated to improvement of gender-responsive interventions continue to be inadequate.

Due to the increased need to provide stronger and more adequate care to women in forensic

mental health facilities, this program evaluation project aimed to document the need and interest in gender-responsive programming and specific programming topics through the perspective of female patients currently residing at a Canadian forensic psychiatric hospital. Of the portion of women currently at the hospital (N=5), a focus group (n=3) and one-on-one interviews were conducted for those unable to attend the focus group (n=1). The female clients were asked semi-structured interview questions, which examined topics including their perceptions of gender-specific needs, interest in attending women-centered programming, and specific topics that they would like to explore through future programming (i.e., sexual health, relationships, etc.).

All the female clients involved in the study reported a strong agreement in the need for addressing female care through programming. The main themes that female clients reported aligned with interest in programming for following topics: self-esteem and self-care; sexual health; sex and consent education; healthy relationships and healthy parenting; substance use; self-advocacy and boundary-setting; stigma and discrimination; and culture. One theme identified by female clients aligned with needs for future programming to foster an experience of enhanced connection with other women via opportunities for open and honest conversations on relatable topics. The majority of participants believed that women have unique needs compared to men and want programs to reflect those needs through connection with other women. One participant stated, *"these things are something all women go through, so I would definitely join a group."* When discussing the importance of healthy relationships and parenting, a female client reflected on her motivation for change and desire to learn through involvement in programming by stating that *"I want to fix my relationships, get joint custody and learn to work toward that."* All of the forensic-involved women who participated in the project reported an interest in being involved in female-centred and gender-responsive programming, with one woman stating, *"I love women and would love to learn these things about being a woman."*

This program evaluation project helped to increase understanding of gaps in education needs and interests to learn how to better support female forensic clients. By increasing attention and awareness of women's unique needs in forensic systems, there is an opportunity to refine psychosocial rehabilitative interventions and develop a foundation for future program implementation. In turn, this can increase awareness and mitigate risk factors relevant to successful community reintegration. Future directions involve developing female-oriented programs based on RNR principles to target gender-specific risk factors with a trauma-informed, strength-based focus, as well as strengthen connections with professionals in forensic settings, both local and international. Women, especially those who experience forensic intersectionality, are stigmatized, victimized, and criminalized. However, they also can be resourceful, intelligent, and compassionate community members. By recognizing the gaps in gender-informed care and programming at Canadian forensic psychiatric hospitals, resources can be allocated to increase women's mental wellness, promote successful community reintegration, and decreased criminal recidivism.

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The Value of Voice: Exploring the Perceived Impact of Patient Advisory Committees in a Canadian Forensic Mental Health Facility

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In recent years, research regarding the importance of increasing engagement among forensic mental health clients has increased to encourage successful rehabilitation processes and provide best-practice services. *Client engagement* refers to the multifaceted, active involvement, and meaningful participation of clients in a range of activities, programming, and decision-making (Tambuyzer et al., 2011). In a comprehensive review, Tambuyzer and colleagues (2011) formed four arguments to justify the need for client engagement in mental health settings. The researchers noted that client engagement: a) is the ethical manner of providing care; b) enriches the health of clients and improves therapeutic outcomes; c) improves the quality of services/care; and d) allows mental health facilities to meet government standards and increase their legitimacy and credibility. Following these justifications, Livingston and colleagues (2013) postulated an additional reason for the importance of client engagement across mental health facilities. Specifically, they explained that endorsing client engagement can *reduce costs and expenses* whereby clients take more responsibility and are provided more support through engagement and collaboration, thus reducing costs for professionals having to provide such services.

Given the importance of client engagement within forensic mental health facilities, several institu-

tions in Canada have begun to develop client-led initiatives with a focus to increase client engagement in rehabilitation processes. In 2013, Canadian researchers and clinicians conducted a longitudinal study to explore the effectiveness of three newly developed client engagement interventions on patient and system level outcomes within a Canadian forensic mental health facility (Livingston et al., 2013). These interventions included a peer support program, a patient advisory committee, and a patient-led research group. Results from Livingston and colleagues (2013) indicated that, although few significant positive changes were found in the standardized outcome measures, the engagement interventions did improve the experience of care for clients. The majority of clients described increased feelings of value and consideration of their preferences, and half of the participants noted the interventions provided them with greater opportunities to be involved in services and supports.

Altogether, it appears that client-led initiatives, which can increase client engagement within forensic mental health facilities, can be beneficial in improving the environment and care experiences of patients. However, developing and implementing these interventions can be highly time-consuming for staff as they can require many professional resources. A high level of monitoring, support, and problem-solving also is



necessary to effectively implement similar interventions. As a result, many forensic mental health facilities in Canada struggle to offer client engagement initiatives. In essence, Livingston and colleagues (2013) have provided the only empirical study to document and demonstrate the effectiveness of these programs.

The current project was organized as a program evaluation initiative. Exploratory evaluation was undertaken at a Canadian forensic mental health facility which had previously implemented a Patient Advisory Committee (PAC) to increase client engagement. The Patient Advisory Committee was largely client-led, with objectives to provide a safe space whereby monthly meetings would allow clients to engage in open dialogue with staff, co-clients, and management to discuss hospital improvements, as well as client wishes and concerns. This initiative aimed to allow clients to have more of a say in their environments, in the care that they received, and to have their voices heard by those who have the ability to make changes. Unfortunately, a combination of staffing capabilities and COVID-19 pandemic in recent years contributed to the cessation of PAC activities. This program evaluation aimed to qualitatively explore staff and patient perceptions of the former PAC to gain a stronger understanding of the value of such client-led initiatives.

To explore impressions about the PAC, forensic hospital staff ($n = 8$) and clients ($n = 11$) were invited to participate in semi-structured interviews which involved discussions about the former PAC. Topics included perceptions of client-led initiatives, the benefits and challenges the committee faced, as well as ideas and suggestions for how to implement a stronger and more sustainable initiative in the future. In addition to the interviews, the client participants also completed an adapted version of the Brief Sense of Community Scale (Peterson et al., 2008).

Results from this program evaluation found that 100% of staff and clients expressed interest in having the PAC return to the hospital. Findings from the staff interviews revealed that the value of the PAC was its focus on being patient-centered. Staff described areas in which the PAC

could provide benefits to the clients, such as through building autonomy, empowerment, and gaining rapport with staff and co-clients. It was evident that a majority of staff who participated in the study believed that the PAC could positively contribute to client care by promoting insight, building autonomy, strengthening self-advocacy, and enabling clients to feel valued. One participant noted, *“When clients can be part of something (such as this committee), it makes their rehabilitation journey more meaningful to them as they see themselves as being valued, and being able to contribute towards things that matter them.”*

Despite staff holding positive perceptions of the PAC, it was evident that there are challenges to be faced if the PAC were to be reinstated. Challenges such as managing client personalities, ensuring discussions during meetings are equal, and continuing momentum of staff and clients' discussions were noted. Findings from staff participants also showed a discrepancy between their level of interest in helping form a PAC ($M = 8.75$) and their realistic ability to do so ($M = 6.50$). One staff member stated *“we need more staff in each discipline and more adequate training, so we have more time in our days to engage in meaningful work such as this.”*

Several main themes emerged from interviews with client participants. Clients indicated that they felt like the PAC helped strengthen relationships with staff and co-clients, increased feelings of self-value, and allowed clients to feel more involved in their care experience. One client expressed: *“Feeling heard makes you feel good about yourself and feel as though you are more than just a number to staff.”* There was also a theme of accomplishment and teamwork, which emerged when clients were asked about what they enjoyed most about the PAC. Elaborating on this theme, one client noted that *“the best part was having people collectively coming together to achieve the same goal and wanting the same thing.”*

A majority of client participants also indicated that they wish they had stronger professional relationships within the hospital environment. They

described not feeling heard by hospital staff, and one client noted that there are *“things that can be done to make our hospital stay easier and more enjoyable.”* These client concerns were reflected in their average Brief Sense of Community Scale score of 21.01/48. While the authors of the scale suggest a cut-off of 30/48 to indicate having a moderate sense of community, the average score found among clients at the forensic hospital helps to illustrate the lack of community connectedness perceived within the facility.

Lastly, throughout the interview, it was found that, without the PAC in place, clients felt as though expressing their concerns often went unheard and required excessive repetition and reminding. Clients noted feeling as though their concerns are not *“fixed as quick”* as they would be with the PAC and their concerns are often not passed on to the correct people. One client stated *“things seem to be stagnant for much longer than they were when PAC was running... with PAC changes would be much quicker”*.

Altogether, findings from this program evaluation suggest that client-led initiatives, such as Patient Advisory Committees, are perceived as beneficial for clients in terms of their subjective recovery and rehabilitation. These conclusions were prevalent among both clients and staff. Results of the current program evaluation aimed to highlight the importance of client engagement within forensic mental health facilities. Advocacy is recommended for forensic facilities to explore new and unique methods of increasing client engagement to strengthen rehabilitation and recovery processes.

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Queering Victim's Voices: The Role of Sexual and Gender Minority Identity in Experiences of Interpersonal Violence

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When asked who comes to mind when the phrase “victim of interpersonal violence” is heard, the average layperson envisions a scenario where a heterosexual woman is assaulted (physically and/or sexually) by a heterosexual man. For many years, victims’ voices have been gendered and almost exclusively ‘female’. Given current recognition that people who identify as sexual and gender minorities experience *significantly elevated* rates of interpersonal violence (Whitton et al., 2019), yet are often neglected in psychological research, researchers within the PERPLab¹ at MacEwan University (run by Dr. Kristine Peace) aim to provide a more inclusive queer perspective in relation to interpersonal victimization (i.e., queering the victim’s voice)². This research brief is focused on the amalgamation of findings from our lab and beyond to accomplish this aim. We define interpersonal violence (IV) broadly as including intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual assault/violence (SA), and criminal harassment/stalking (CH).

Intimate Partner Violence

Of these three forms, violence between partners (IPV) has received the most inclusive empirical

attention thus far. Existing research suggests that female attracted women (including both lesbian and bisexual identities) report the highest rates of IPV experiences in social surveys (e.g., Chen et al., 2020; Corey et al., 2023). Across our samples, questions regarding IPV victimization yielded rates three times higher for these same two identities than the broader heterosexual population (i.e., 42.1% of bisexual women and 46.2% of lesbian women versus 13.4% of heterosexual persons; e.g., Peace, Tiller, & Walters, 2022; Styba-Nelson et al., 2023). Interestingly, only 16.7% of gay men reported IPV experiences, relative to less than 10% of straight men (Krebs, Renderos, & Peace, 2020). We suspect this reflects challenges with both underreporting and how relationship violence is conceptualized and identified in gay men (e.g., see Salter et al., 2021). In relation to gender, 58.8% of those who identified as non-binary indicated experiencing IPV victimization, representing a disturbing trend of victimization that was 3 times higher than cisgender women and 6 times higher than cisgender men in our samples. Thus far, victimization (overall) against transgender men and women appears comparable to cisgender women and remains lower than what non-binary persons ex-



perience (Styba-Nelson et al., 2023). Although research is only beginning to examine additional gender conceptualizations (i.e., agender, questioning), these works suggest that gender minorities are at greatly increased risk of IPV victimization (e.g., Cantor et al., 2019; Decker et al., 2018; Rosenberg, 2019; Whitton et al., 2019).

Sexual Violence & Assault

Existing studies report elevated rates of sexual violence (SV)³ among both gender and sexual minorities (e.g., Grocott et al., 2022; Rosenberg, 2019). Our data reflect these same disturbing patterns (see Styba-Nelson et al., 2023). Specifically, when compared to straight persons, the rates of sexual assault were 1.35x higher for gay men, 1.51x higher for lesbian women, and 2.18x higher for bisexual individuals. Similarly, when compared to cisgender individuals, reported rates among non-binary participants were elevated at 1.5x higher than cisgender women and a staggering 5x times higher than cisgender men. Although these numbers represent an amalgamation of multiple samples involved with experimental research on SV, they are concerning and warrant further empirical attention. It is expected that trends extend to experiences of sexual coercion (e.g., Cartwright & Peace, 2023). Scholars are encouraged to both *study* and *listen* to the experiences of SV in queer survivors to improve understanding and empirical focus (e.g., Dickinson, Offrey, & Peace, 2023).

Criminal Harassment/Stalking

Stalking, referred to as criminal harassment (CH) in Canada, is another form of interpersonal violence that is not adequately addressed or recognized across queer populations. Existing studies have demonstrated that queer persons experience more frequent and severe stalking, stalking-related violent acts, and report stalking to law enforcement significantly less often than straight and cisgendered persons (e.g., Langerfer-Magruder et al., 2020; Mennicke et al., 2021; Sheridan et al., 2019; Trujillo et al., 2020). To date, the PERPLab has only collected data on gender minorities in relation to CH. These data indicated that non-binary individuals reported being stalked 1.25x more than cisgender women, and 3x more than cisgender

men (Gauthier & Peace, 2022; Styba-Nelson et al., 2023). Although forthcoming studies are evaluating this topic more inclusively (e.g., Peace & Offrey, 2023; Robinson & Peace, 2023), the voice of the queer victim in relation to stalking has been largely neglected.

Patterns, Directions, and Conclusions

Collectively, research concerning interpersonal violence in 2SLGBTQ+ populations should consider the following overall patterns and directions in designing future studies⁴.

1. Gender and sexual minority status do not exist in a vacuum of marginalization. While queer identity, on its own, is related to increased rates of victimization, research also must address the intersectionality of multiple stigmatized identities and complex interrelated risk factors. For example, among gender minorities, being Black, Hispanic, or disabled compounds risk of experiencing interpersonal violence (e.g., Hancock & Daigle, 2021). That said, sexual minority status remains a significant predictor of sexual violence victimization even when controlling for factors such as socioeconomic status, race, and education (Canan et al., 2021). As such, understanding the independent and collective contributions of queer identity across specific and overall victimization experiences will be important for better mental health and criminal justice responses in the future.

2. Queer victims may have different objective and subjective experiences of victimization. While the PERPLab is beginning to examine demographic and experiential data (Styba-Nelson et al., 2023), it also must be recognized that interpersonal violence is subjective and experienced differently across individuals and groups. Researchers often use dichotomous (YES/NO) experiential data or standardized measures of IV experiences. Thus, there is a need for more expansive analysis of IV-related behaviours to identify those experienced *exclusively* by sexual and/or gender minorities (i.e., threats of being 'outed'; Krebs et al., 2020). For example, the PERPLab currently is using existing measures of coercion to evaluate queer experiences (victimization and perpetration) of specific coer-

cive tactics and examine how queer individuals define, describe, and identify their own experiences in relation to the differing forms of interpersonal violence (e.g., Cartwright & Peace, 2023; Dickinson et al., 2023). More studies examining differences and similarities in IV experiences will aid in providing increasingly inclusive victim supports.

3. Traditional gender- or sexuality-based attitudes predict negative judgments of queer victims.

While much research has examined attitudes related to sexism or homophobia in general (Worthen, 2021), studies often fail to apply these to situations where queer victims of interpersonal violence are being judged (e.g., in court). Studies from the PERPLab have demonstrated that gender-based attitudes (i.e., ambivalent and hostile sexism, traditional sex roles) are related to minimization of violence in *any circumstance* where persons involved do not conform to traditional relationship expectations (e.g., Gauthier et al., 2021; Krebs & Peace, 2021; Krebs et al., 2020; Peace et al., 2023; Tiller & Peace, 2023). Thus, researchers are encouraged to include measures of attitudinal bias as they provide valuable additions to the literature, particularly when concerning victimization among gender and sexual minorities.

4. Queer populations face additional barriers to disclosure in criminal justice settings.

Queer individuals are less likely to report any form of victimization to the police, and even more so in relation to those of an interpersonal nature (Langenderfer-Magruder et al., 2020). The true prevalence of victimization is unknown, and likely underreported, given additional barriers faced within the criminal justice system. For example, queer victims report the following types of experiences within the criminal justice system: not being taken seriously; victim blaming (e.g., judgments of promiscuity); minimization of severity; stress of revealing one's identity especially if not publicly 'out' yet; limited investigative resources dedicated to case; and fewer guilty verdicts against those who perpetrate IV against queer victims (e.g., Decker et al., 2018; Dyar et al., 2021; Ellingwood et al., 2022;

Grocott et al., 2022; Miller & London, 2021; Salter et al., 2021). Ultimately, disbelief of queer victimization is discrimination, reflective of internalized homonegativity and transnegativity (e.g., Kurdyla, 2023).

Fortunately, the body of research being collectively generated by the PERPLab has helped to further recognition and discussion of challenges, as well as make recommendations to address shortcomings. For example, a realistic and change could be to develop reporting systems that are accommodating to sexual and gender minorities, particularly in education about the elevated rates of violence and in policies protecting the privacy of the victim's sexual or gender identity. These, and other actions, can aid in more equitable treatment of queer victims of interpersonal violence. Furthermore, increasing recognition of the scope of violence in 2SLGBTQ+ groups may help to promote the need for awareness campaigns, preventive efforts, intervention programs and the availability and accessibility of inclusive victim supports (e.g., Calton et al., 2016; Kurdyla, 2023). Ultimately, there exists a need for research that creates space to for queer victims of interpersonal violence to be acknowledged and validated.

Footnotes

¹Processes in Emotion, Recollection, and Violence Perception Lab (PERPLab)

²Recently, Drs. Peace and Offrey (both at MacEwan) are working towards establishing a specialized collaborative research lab to address these topics, tentatively titled the Rainbow Crime Lab (RCL).

³Sexual violence in this context broadly includes all levels of sexual assault, exploitation, touching and workplace harassment (Potter et al., 2020).

⁴Although this list is not exhaustive, it is drawn from reviews of the existing literature as well as our conversations with community members and scholars alike (e.g., Peace et al., 2023).

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Examining Correlates of Multiple-Perpetrator Rape Proclivity in Men and Women

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Background

Multiple-Perpetrator Rape (MPR) is defined as a sexual assault carried out by a group of two or more offenders (Morgan et al., 2012). The characteristics and attitudes of individuals who may potentially commit MPR are woefully under-researched. Existing research has grouped MPR offenders with lone sexual offenders, who may potentially have unique characteristics and attitudes as compared to lone offenders (Alleyne et al., 2014; Harkins & Dixon, 2010). The distinction between the two groups is important to reduce the prevalence and recidivism of multiple-perpetrator sexual violence. Fortunately, a small body of literature exists that has investigated the differences in demographics and offense-related information among lone and MPR offenders.

Current study

The current study was guided by a broad research question: what are the properties of the

Multiple-Perpetrator Rape Interest Scale (M-PRIS) with men and women? Loneliness, aggression, sexual fantasies, anger rumination, rape myth acceptance, psychopathy, and history of victimization were assessed as individual risk factors potentially predictive of MPR interest. It was hypothesized that loneliness, psychopathy, and anger rumination would be the three strongest predictors of MPR interest. That is, individuals who scored high on the M-PRIS also would likely feel extremely lonely, exhibit psychopathic traits, and have a propensity for anger rumination.

After clicking the study link and providing informed consent, participants completed a demographic survey and a series of questionnaires (the M-PRIS [Alleyne et al., 2014], the UCLA Loneliness Scale: Short-Form [Hays & DiMatteo, 1987], the Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire: Short Form [BPAQ: SF; Bryant & Smith, 2001], the Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire [SFQ; Wilson,

1988], the Anger Rumination Scale [ARS; Sukhodolsky et al., 2001], the Updated Measure for Assessing Subtle Rape Myths [SRMA; McMahon & Farmer, 2011], and the Self-Report Psychopathy [SRP-III] Short Form [SRP-II: SF; Paulhus et al., 2017]).

Participants were recruited through social media and message boards. The total sample consisted of 297 respondents of cis men ($n = 115$, $M_{age} = 30.09$, $SD = 7.55$) and cis women ($n = 182$, $M_{age} = 26.95$, $SD = 7.52$).

Results

For ease of interpretation, the sample was divided by gender and analyzed separately.

Men's Sample

There were significant positive associations between all exploratory variables and the outcome variable that ranged from weak to strong (see Table 1 for Pearson's r). The strongest relationship for M-PRIS was SFQ Sado-Masochistic ($r = .79$, $p < .001$).

Backward linear regression was conducted to gauge which scales and corresponding subscales were the strongest predictors for the M-PRIS Total. Thirteen models were calculated and the following variables remained as significant predictors: Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire Exploratory, Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire Sado-Masochistic, Updated Measure for Assessing Subtle Rape Myths Total, Updated Measure for Assessing Subtle Rape Myths She Asked for It, Updated Measure for Assessing Subtle Rape Myths He Didn't Mean To, Updated Measure for Assessing Subtle Rape Myths Wasn't Really Rape, Self-Report Psychopathy-III: Short Form Total, Self-Report Psychopathy-III: Short Form Interpersonal Manipulation, Self-Report Psychopathy-III: Short Form Callous Affect, Self-Report Psychopathy-III: Short Form Erratic Lifestyle, and Self-Report Psychopathy-III: Short Form Antisocial Behavior. Results showed a significant model, $F(11, 104) = 116.6$, $p < .05$, which explained 91.7% of the variance.

Women's Sample

Extensive descriptive analyses were conducted

on the M-PRIS as it appears that the M-PRIS has yet to be validated on women. The M-PRIS consisted of two subscales (initiation and intimidation) with three vignettes in each. Measures for each subscale evaluated participants' level of sexual arousal, propensity to commit what was described in the vignette, and level of enjoyment of the vignette described. We examined each vignette separately to detect changes in participant thought patterns. A total of 37% of participants had some level of sexual arousal, behavioral propensity, and/or enjoyment of the MPR vignettes.

Significant zero-order correlations were discovered between five of the predictor variables and the M-PRIS (the predicted outcome). The M-PRIS had strong positive correlations with the BPAQ: SF Total ($r = .65$, $p < .001$), the SFQ ($r = .60$, $p < .001$), the SRMA Total ($r = .65$, $p < .001$), and the SRP III: SF Total ($r = .74$, $p < .001$), while the ARS ($r = .46$, $p < .001$) yielded a medium positive relationship. That is, female participants who scored higher on the individual questionnaires for greater levels of aggressive behaviour, more sexual fantasies, increased acceptance of rape myths, greater levels of psychopathy, and increased anger rumination indicated a stronger interest in multiple-perpetrator rape.

Next, we conducted a backward stepwise linear regression. The overall regression was statistically significant, $R = .76$, $R^2 = .58$, Adjusted $R^2 = .57$, $F(2, 179) = 122.49$, $p < .001$. Rape interest could be somewhat predicted from two main variables (Psychopathy and Rape Myth Acceptance), with approximately 76% of the variance in M-PRIS scores accounted for by the regression. To assess the significance of the two main predictors, the t ratios for each regression slope was examined. Psychopathy $t(181) = 8.18$, $p < .001$ and Rape Myth Acceptance $t(181) = 3.56$, $p < .001$ were significantly predictive of Multiple-Perpetrator Rape Interest. Results are interpreted to suggest that high scores of psychopathy predicted a greater interest in multiple-perpetrator rape, and a greater acceptance of rape myths predicted more interest in rape (and vice versa).

Lastly, a linear regression was conducted on how M-PRIS scores were affected by the hypothesized three main predictor variables (Psychopathy, Anger Rumination, and Loneliness) and their subscales. The overall regression was statistically significant with 80% of the variance in the M-PRIS accounted for by the regression ($R = .80$, $R^2 = .63$, adjusted $R^2 = .62$, $F(9,172) = 33.22$, $p < .001$). The Psychopathy scale as a whole was significant $t(181) = 6.74$, $p < .001$, as well as three of its subscales: Interpersonal Manipulation $t(181) = -3.64$, $p < .001$, Callous Affect $t(181) = -3.49$, $p < .001$, and Erratic Lifestyle $t(181) = -2.95$, $p = .004$. This suggests that higher scores of Psychopathy (namely on Interpersonal Manipulation, Callous Affect, and Erratic Lifestyle) were predictive of higher interest in multiple-perpetrator rape. The Anger Rumination scale itself was not significant, but two of its subscales, Anger Afterthoughts $t(181) = 2.08$, $p = .039$ and Thoughts of Revenge $t(181) = 4.09$, $p < .001$, were. Thus, higher amounts of Anger Afterthoughts and Thoughts of Revenge raised the likelihood of increased interest in multiple-perpetrator rape. Adding the Psychopathy subscale Anti-Social Behavior and the Anger Rumination subscale Understanding of Causes created aliased coefficients and were excluded. The Loneliness scale was not found to be significant $t(181) = 1.67$, $p = .097$.

Implications

Multiple-perpetrator rape is an underreported form of sexual violence (Chambers et al., 2010), and understanding the potential dynamic risk factors of individuals may be a solution to reduce the prevalence. The findings from this study demonstrate that multiple dynamic risk factors correlate to a proclivity for MPR. The results contribute to the sexual violence literature by identifying potential dynamic risk factors (i.e., psychopathy, loneliness, aggression, anger rumination, deviant sexual fantasies, and rape myth acceptance) as major correlates for a proclivity for MPR and reconfirming prior research findings on MPR. The results have important implications for clinical, education, and prevention efforts related to sexual violence.

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Author Note

No funding was provided for this research and the authors have no conflicts of interest to declare. The data/coding that supports the findings of this study is available from the corresponding author. This study was reviewed and approved by the King's University College Research Ethics Review Committee.

Alexandra Zidenberg is now at the Department of Military Psychology and Leadership, Royal Military College of Canada.

Table 1. Means, Standard Deviations, and Pearson's r for Exploratory Variables Relationship with Proclivity for MPR

Variable	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>r</i>
M-PRIS Total	48.31	26.77	—
UCLA Loneliness Total	17.65	4.87	0.33***
BPAQ Total	28.50	8.35	0.68***
BPAQ Physical Aggression	6.57	2.87	.60***
BPAQ Verbal Aggression	7.35	2.44	.50***
BPAQ Anger	7.32	2.75	.49***
BPAQ Hostility	7.25	2.83	.49***
SFQ Total	105.03	32.10	.74***
SFQ Exploratory	24.92	8.36	.73***
SFQ Intimate	29.37	10.44	.44***
SFQ Impersonal	25.97	8.93	.66***
SFQ Sado-Masochistic	24.65	9.46	.79***
ARS Total	37.16	11.48	.50***
ARS Angry Afterthoughts	11.71	4.28	.39***
ARS Thoughts of Revenge	7.78	2.89	.50***
ARS Angry Memories	9.70	3.55	.42***
ARS Understanding of Causes	7.97	2.66	.43***
SRMA She Asked For It	14.99	4.78	.59***
SRMA He Didn't Mean To	14.21	4.74	.54***
SRMA Wasn't Really Rape	12.37	3.23	.49***
SRMA She Lied	13.29	4.18	.19*
SRP Total	66.61	18.15	.63***
SRP Interpersonal Manipulation	17.01	5.65	.56***
SRP Callous Affect	17.03	5.22	.56***
SRP Erratic Lifestyle	19.63	5.84	.56***
SRP Antisocial Behavior	15.34	5.61	.48***

Notes. * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$



Research Update: Implementation of the Core Member Needs and Strengths Tool in Circles of Support and Accountability Operations

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Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) Canada is a volunteer-run organization that supports individuals convicted of sexual offences, referred to as Core Members, to reintegrate into the community (CoSA Canada, 2021). Developed in 1984 in Hamilton, Ontario, CoSA is an evidence-based intervention that consistently demonstrates positive results in terms of recidivism reduction and improved well-being (e.g., Clarke et al., 2015; Elliot & Zajac, 2015; Höing et al., 2013; Wilson et al., 2010).

In 2021, the Mennonite Central Committee of Ontario (MCCO) initiated the creation of a tool that would streamline data collection, track Core Member progress, and reduce the organization's reliance on unstandardized approaches or on formal risk measures that were not intuitive and that require extensive and expensive training (e.g., Stable-2007; Hanson et al., 2007). To facilitate evidence-based practice, the Core Member Needs and Strengths Tool (CM-NAST) was developed in consultation with CoSA staff and licensed psychologists. The CM-NAST assesses factors related to CoSA's reintegration work, including the social determinants of health (e.g., employment/income, housing, food security, etc.), as well as risk (e.g., atypical sexual interests, antisociality), responsiveness (e.g., hostility towards women, self-

regulation deficits), and protective (i.e., leisure activities, social network) factors.

The CM-NAST tool has been piloted on 39 new Core Members across Canada since April 2022. Initial feedback from CoSA staff and volunteers indicate that the CM-NAST is user-friendly, contains content relevant to their reintegration work, and has logical organization. Potential barriers included the limited availability of data in official documentation (e.g., offence details) and Core Members' reluctance to disclose sensitive information (e.g., sexual interests, parole breaches). Supported by CoSA Canada via a grant from Public Safety Canada, a validation study is being undertaken at several sites across the country, with results expected in March 2024. This study will have a small sample size and there is a need to increase use of the CM-NAST across various reintegration settings. However, the CM-NAST demonstrates significant potential as an evidence-based reintegration tool developed by and for reintegration service workers.

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PUBLICATIONS

Recently Published Abstracts

Gray, A. L., & Viljoen, J. L. (2023). Violence and suicidal/nonsuicidal self-injury among adolescents undergoing residential treatment: An examination of the predictive validity of the SAVRY, START:AV, and VRS-YV. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 50(7), 931–952. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548231165531>

Using a retrospective study design, predictive validity of the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth, Short-Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability: Adolescent Version (START:AV), and the Violence Risk Scale–Youth Version (VRS-YV) was examined among 87 adolescents referred to a residential treatment program. With few exceptions, moderate to high accuracy was achieved for the three measures in predicting violence and suicidal/nonsuicidal self-injury occurring during the adolescents' time in treatment. Accuracy of the measures peaked within 90 days for violence and gradually increased over the 180-day follow-up for suicidal/nonsuicidal self-injury. Dynamic factors were more predictive of repeated events involving violence relative to static/historical factors, whereas only factors from the START:AV were predictive of repeated events involving suicidal/nonsuicidal self-injury. These results emphasize the need for further examining the risk of adverse outcomes beyond violence among adolescents.

GOODBYE TO SOME AND HELLO TO OTHERS



A Special Thanks to Outgoing Executive Members and A Warm Welcome to the Newest Additions

At the N5 / CPA Convention in Toronto this past June, a number of our Section Members stepped down from their Executive Positions. The CJS Executive would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all of the hard work and many years of dedicated service of these individuals. Much gratitude and thanks are extended to **Dr. Jim Cheston** (former Director at Large), **Dr. Kyrsten Grimes** (former Managing Editor of *Crime Scene*), **Dr. Eleanor Gittens** (former Police Psychology Representative), and **Dr. Alisha Salerno** (former Student Representative). We are sad to see these fine folks go, but look forward to connecting again with them at future CPA conventions! We warmly wish all of them much success in their future endeavours.



We are also very excited to welcome a few new executive members who have stepped up to take on the responsibilities associated with some of these newly vacant roles. We are pleased to have **Dr. Hannah Stewart** join us as the new Review Editor of *Crime Scene*, and both **Emma McFarlene** and **Gabriella Hilkes** joining as Student Representatives. Below is a message of hello and brief introduction from each of them.

Criminal Justice Psychology
SECTION OF THE CPA



Psychologie de la Justice Pénale
SECTION DE LA SCP

Hannah Stewart, Ph.D., R.Psych.

I am thrilled to join the Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee as our new Review Editor for the *Crime Scene* Newsletter! I completed my PhD at the University of New Brunswick and currently am a Registered Clinical and Forensic Psychologist working with justice-involved populations based out of Halifax, Nova Scotia. My clinical and research experience has centred around working with marginalized, underserved, and stigmatized members of society, including both inpatient and outpatient justice-involved populations. I am passionate about balancing unique client needs with needs for public safety, and dedicated to supporting forensic rehabilitation and reintegration, promoting harm reduction, advocating for clients' needs, and facilitating psychosocial adjustment. My background in research has explored the "grey area" of diverse forensic-psychological and criminological issues including forensic mental health, high-risk criminal offenders, paraphilias and sexual offending, and processes of change. I believe that reasons behind deviancy should be explored to reduce tendencies to demonize people and thus enable effective solutions for problems at individual and societal levels. In my spare time, I love to hang out with my cat, travel, and rock out on stage at open mic nights. In my role as Review Editor, I am excited to contribute to the dissemination of new research, initiatives, and updates in the field of criminal justice psychology. Please feel welcome to contact me if you have any ideas that would help enhance future issues! I look forward to reviewing your submissions.

Emma McFarlane, MA Candidate

I am currently pursuing my M.A. in forensic psychology at Carleton University in the Gender and Crime lab under the supervision of Dr. Shelley Brown. For my thesis, I am examining the developmental trajectories of offending behaviours among crossover youth and justice-involved individuals with a history of abuse. Specifically, I will be examining trajectory membership through a lens of risks, strengths, race, and gender.

Gabriella Hilkes, MA Candidate:

I am currently working towards my M.A. in forensic psychology at Carleton University in the Sexually Harmful Behaviours Research Lab, supervised by Dr. Kelly Babchishin. For my thesis, I am conducting a thematic analysis of the family dynamics and sibling relationships of adolescents who commit sexual offences against their sisters compared to adolescents with sisters but who offend against unrelated females. I have also gained research experience as a research assistant on the Forensic Research Unit at the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saint Mary's University is hosting the [4th Annual Canadian Forensic Psychology Virtual Conference](#) on Friday February 9, 2024.

St. Francis Xavier University is hosting the annual "[Applied Forensic Psychology @ X Day](#)" in Antigonish, NS, on March 22, 2024.

The 2024 [Annual Conference of the American Psychology-Law Society](#) is scheduled to take place in Los Angeles, CA, from March 21-23, 2024.

[The International Investigative Research Group \(IIRG\)](#) is hosting their annual conference at Carleton University in Ottawa, ON, from June 17-24, 2024.

[CPA's National Annual Convention](#) is scheduled to take place in Ottawa, ON, on June 21-23, 2024

[APA's National Annual Convention](#) is scheduled to take place in Seattle, WA, on August 8-10, 2024.



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Please contact our Managing Editor, Dr. Christopher Lively (clively@stfx.ca), or our Review Editor, Dr. Hannah Stewart (hannah.stewart2@nshealth.ca), if you have ideas for submission or questions.

Join the CJP Section Executive:

The Criminal Justice Section is currently looking for a **Vice-Chair**, **Director-At-Large**, and a **Police Psychology Representative**. For any members interested in these position, you are encouraged to submit a statement of interest to Dr. Patrick Baillie, Chair (courtdoc@outlook.com).

Do you have ideas, comments, or suggestions?

Feel free to contact any member of our Executive team—we want to hear from you!

Don't forget to check us out on our [Website](#) or on [X](#)! (the platform formally known as Twitter)

Thank you for supporting the Criminal Justice Psychology Section!