

GSAPP Office of Professional Development & Continuing Education

Speaker Information Request Form

Presentation Information - please provide your information as you would like to see it listed:

(This information will be used in the conference promotional materials and packets and for the purpose of providing CEs to attendees)

Name: Sonja Krstic

Degree: Ph.D. in Psychology

Job Title and Employer: Assistant Professor of Psychology, Endicott College, Beverly, Massachusetts

Professional license (state, #, and type): NA

The following items are ***required*** in order to provide CE credit:

1. Title of Presentation:

Pedophilia and CSEM Offenses: Etiological and Typological Considerations

2. Session description/abstract (250 words or less)

Recent research has demonstrated that pedophilia is a taxon (i.e., a distinct category, such that one is either a pedophile or not a pedophile), but that not all individuals who commit sexual crimes against children are pedophiles. A growing body of literature has focused on identifying meaningful differences between individuals convicted solely of non-contact child sexual exploitation material (CSEM) offenses and those convicted of contact or mixed (contact + CSEM) offenses. It is important, both theoretically and clinically, to identify characteristics that differentiate these two groups.

One candidate marker for essential pedophilia is Knight's fixated-low social competence type, derived from the fourth version of the Massachusetts Treatment Center Child Molester typology (MTC: CM4; Knight & King, 2012). In a sample of men convicted of sexual offenses against children (CSOs), we recently found that this type showed more neurodevelopmental symptoms compared to other CSOs and those with adult victims only. Additionally, we found that a history of sexual abuse is an important predictor of pedophilic interest and behavior, above and beyond any neurodevelopmental risk factors in our study, and that neurodevelopmental symptoms and a history of sexual abuse are not independent in their influence. Our recent study also examined whether individuals convicted of

CSEM offenses differ across a set of etiologically relevant variables previously linked to sexual offending. The goal of the current talk is to integrate these findings and discuss our current understanding of the distinguishing characteristics of pedophilic CSOs and individuals convicted of CSEM offenses.

3. Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this educational activity, attendees should be better able to:

1. Identify the differentiating characteristics of those who sexually offend exclusively against children.
2. Understand the role of neurodevelopmental and environmental correlates of pedophilia.
3. Understand the practical importance of differentiating pedophilic from other CSOs.
4. Understand the distinguishing characteristics of CSEM offending.

4. Timed agenda for the presentation

0:00 - 0:10: Introduction and overview

0:10 - 0:20: Defining pedophilia

0:21 - 1:00: Offending against children, comparison to other sexual offending

1:01 - 1:45: Etiology of pedophilia

1:46 – 1:59: Break

2:01 - 2:30: CSEM

2:31 - 2:59: Integration and conclusion; time for questions

5. Bibliography in APA format

Babchishin, K. M., Merdian, H. L., Bartels, R. M., & Perkins, D. (2018). Child sexual exploitation materials offenders. *European Psychologist*.

Brankley, A. E., Knight, R. A., & Hanson, R. K. (2022). Pedophilia is a taxon among 706 adult males assessed at a civil commitment center. *Journal of psychopathology and clinical science*, 131(2), 209.

Knight, R. A. (2025). Classification models for individuals who have sexually aggressed. In *Best practices in sexual offender assessment and management* (pp. 35-64). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

Krstic, S., Neumann, C. S., Roy, S., Robertson, C. A., Knight, R. A., & Hare, R. D. (2018). Using latent variable-and person-centered approaches to examine the role of psychopathic traits in sex offenders. *Personality Disorders: Theory, Research, and Treatment*, 9(3), 207.

- Krstic, S., Sims-Knight., & Knight, R. (2024, October). *Etiology & Typology of Pedophilia*. Forty-third annual meeting of the Association for Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse, San Antonio, Texas, United States.
- Krstic, S., Sims-Knight., & Knight, R. (2023, September). *Sexual Offending Against Youth: Etiological Implications*. Forty-second annual meeting of the Association for Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse, Aurora, Colorado, United States.
- Maniglio, R. (2011). The role of child sexual abuse in the etiology of suicide and non-suicidal self-injury. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, *124*(1), 30-41.
- McPhail, I. V., Olver, M. E., Brouillette-Alarie, S., & Looman, J. (2018). Taxometric analysis of the latent structure of pedophilic interest. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, *47*(8), 2223-2240.
- Merdian, H. L., Moghaddam, N., Boer, D. P., Wilson, N., Thakker, J., Curtis, C., & Dawson, D. (2018). Fantasy-driven versus contact-driven users of child sexual exploitation material: Offender classification and implications for their risk assessment. *Sexual Abuse*, *30*(3), 230-253.
- Seto, M. C., Hanson, R. K., & Babchishin, K. M. (2011). Contact sexual offending by men with online sexual offences. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, *23*, 124–145. doi:10.1177/ 1079063210369013.
- Teicher, M. H., & Samson, J. A. (2013). Childhood maltreatment and psychopathology: A case for ecophenotypic variants as clinically and neurobiologically distinct subtypes. *American journal of psychiatry*, *170*(10), 1114-1133

6. Post-test (only if providing your talk as an on-demand activity): NA

7. CV: included

8. Bio

Sonja Krstic, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor at Endicott College. Her research focuses on psychopathy and sexual aggression, their relationship and etiology, including the associations of childhood maltreatment and psychopathic traits, variants of psychopathy and their distinct links to sexual offending, and the impact of psychopathy on risk assessment and recidivism. Recent work examines trait constellations that differentiate individuals who offend against children. She has worked with the MIDSA since 2010 and serves as co-chair of ATSA's research committee and on MATSA's executive board.

9. Professional photograph (if using us for advertising needs): NA

10. Signed contract, disclosure, and media release forms (you will receive these once the proposal is approved)

11. This completed form (*Speaker Info Request Form*)

Contact Information (for our purposes):

E-mail: skrstic@endicott.edu

Phone: 617-692-0037

Mailing Address: 42 Swanson Ct., Apt 12A, Boxborough MA 01719

This presentation is intended to be (please check all that apply):

- live Zoom webinar
 recorded for an on-demand webinar
 live in-person workshop
 collaborative training (OPDCE will be the CE sponsor for your training held elsewhere)

Presentation Needs (please check all that apply): **NA**

(if proposal it intended to be a Zoom, on-demand webinar, or collaborative training, please skip to the next section)

- need a laptop (please bring your presentation on a flash drive)
 bring my own laptop
 need flipchart/markers
 need a wireless microphone
 need a special room arrangement (please specify how you need tables and chairs arranged, if not classroom style):
 other needs (please specify):

Please indicate the instructional level of your presentation (circle one):

Introductory

Intermediate

Advanced

Introductory: no prior knowledge of the specific topic is required

Intermediate: some basic knowledge of the specific content is required

Advanced: substantial working knowledge or skill level in the specific content area is required

Additional Accommodations:

(if proposal it intended to be a Zoom, on-demand webinar, or collaborative training, please skip this section)

Do you require wheelchair accessibility or other accommodations? ___ Y ___ N.

If yes, please describe:

For an all-day workshop, we will provide lunch. Do you have any dietary needs? ____Y ____N
If yes, please describe:

Please complete and return this information to:

Jessica Benas, PhD

GSAPP's Director of Continuing Education

Phone: (848) 445-3987

Email: jbenas@rutgers.edu

Rev: October 2024

Sonja Krstic

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Assistant Professor of Psychology and a **researcher** with more than 15 years of experience investigating **psychopathy** and **sexual aggression**. Currently serving as a **co-chair of the ATSA Research Committee**, member of the **MATSA Executive Board of Directors**, and **board member of Cornerstone Assessments, Inc.**, a non-profit specializing in the assessment of sexual aggression.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Psychology, Brandeis University**, Waltham, MA 2017
Dissertation: *Psychopathy and Sexual Aggression: Etiology, Variants, and Management Implications*
Advisor: Raymond Knight, Ph.D.
- M.A. in Psychology, Brandeis University**, Waltham, MA 2012
- M.Ed. in Counseling Psychology, Cambridge College**, Cambridge, MA 2009
- B.A. in English Language and Literature, University of Belgrade**, Serbia 2006

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Vasaturo, A., **Krstic, S.**, & Knight, R. A. (2024). The effects of psychopathy facets on treatment involvement. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 0306624X241270593.
- Krstic, S.**, Harris, D. A., & Knight, R. A. (2021). Psychopathy and sexual aggression: Management implications. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X211022672>
- Krstic, S.**, Longpré, N., Knight, R.A., & Robertson, C.A. (2018). Sadism, psychopathy, and sexual offending. In M. J. Delisi (Ed.), *Routledge International Handbook of Psychopathy and Crime*, New York: Routledge.
- Krstic, S.**, Neumann, C. S., Roy, S., Robertson, C. A., Knight, R. A., & Hare, R. D. (2017). Using latent variable- and person-centered approaches to examine the role of psychopathic traits in sex

offenders. *Personality Disorders: Theory, Research, And Treatment*, doi:10.1037/per0000249

Krstic, S., Knight, R. A., & Robertson, C. A. (2016). Developmental antecedents of the facets of psychopathy: The role of multiple abuse experiences. *Journal of Personality Disorders*, 30(5), 677-693.

Robertson, C. A., Graham, F. J., **Krstic, S.**, & Knight, R. A. (2018). The etiology of forensic sexual sadism: From experiential perturbations to symptomatology. In J. Proulx (Ed.), *International Handbook of Sexual Homicide*, New York: Routledge.

Krstic, S., Knight, R. A. (2025). *Biological and Neurodevelopmental Correlates of Child Molester Subtypes*. Manuscript in preparation.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Krstic, S., Knight, R., & Vasaturo, A. (2025, September). *The Role of Psychopathy Facets on Treatment*. Forty-fourth annual meeting of the Association for Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse, Orlando, Florida, United States.

Krstic, S., Sims-Knight., & Knight, R. (2024, October). *Etiology & Typology of Pedophilia*. Forty-third annual meeting of the Association for Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse, San Antonio, Texas, United States.

Krstic, S., Sims-Knight., & Knight, R. (2023, September). *Sexual Offending Against Youth: Etiological Implications*. Forty-second annual meeting of the Association for Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse, Aurora, Colorado, United States.

Sims-Knight, J., & **Krstic, S.** (2022, October). *Structural Equation Modeling Made Simple*. Forty-first annual meeting of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, Los Angeles, California, United States.

Krstic, S. & Knight, R. A. (2020, April). *Sexual Offending Against Youth: Typology and Implications* [Poster presentation]. Twenty-second annual Massachusetts Adolescent Sex Offender Coalition/Massachusetts Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers joint conference, Marlborough, MA, United States (Conference canceled).

Krstic, S. & Knight, R. A. (2019, October). *Sexual Offending Against Youth: Typology and Implications* [Poster presentation]. Thirty-eighth annual meeting of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, Atlanta, GA, United States.

Krstic, S., Neumann, C. S., & Knight, R. A. (2018, April). *Variants and Structure of PCL-R: Relation to Sexual Offending* [Poster presentation]. Twentieth annual Massachusetts Adolescent Sex Offender Coalition/Massachusetts Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers joint conference, Marlborough, MA, United States.

Krstic, S. (2015, April). The Role of Psychopathy and Risk Assessment in Long Term Management of Adult Sexual Offenders. In R. A. Knight (Chair). *Exploration of the Associations of Psychopathy with Hypersexuality, Sadism, and Recidivism in Sexual Abusers: Patterns, Etiology, and Implications for Management* [Symposium]. Seventeenth annual conference of Massachusetts Adolescent Sex Offender Coalition/Massachusetts Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Joint Conference, Marlborough, MA, United States.

Krstic, S., & Knight, R. A. (2014, October). Characteristics Influencing Recidivism and Release Suitability Approval in Adult Sexual Offenders [Paper presentation]. Thirty-third annual meeting of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, San Diego, CA, United States.

Neumann, C. S., & **Krstic, S.** (2014, October). Variable and Persona-Centered Approaches for Understanding Psychopathy and Sexual Offending [Paper presentation]. Thirty-third annual meeting of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, San Diego, CA, United States.

Krstic, S. (2014, April). The Role of Childhood Abuse in Predicting the Facets of Psychopathy in Adult Sexual Offenders. In R. A. Knight (Chair). *Establishing an Understanding of Psychopathy and Sexual Sadism: From their Developmental Antecedents to their Adult Manifestations and Covariations* [Symposium]. Sixteenth annual Massachusetts Adolescent Sex Offender Coalition/Massachusetts Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Joint Conference, Marlborough, MA, United States.

Krstic, S. (2014, April). Etiological Model of Child Molestation: Developmental Antecedents and Personality Characteristics Related to the Choice of Victim. In R. A. Knight (Chair). *The Role of Developmental Antecedents, Individual Characteristics, and Interpersonal Dispositions in Sexual Offending* [Symposium]. Sixteenth annual Massachusetts Adolescent Sex Offender Coalition/Massachusetts Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Joint Conference, Marlborough, MA, United States.

Krstic, S. (2014, March). The Role of Childhood Abuse in Predicting the Facets of Psychopathy in Adult Sexual Offenders. In R. A. Knight (Chair). *Exploring developmental antecedents, manifestations, and covariations of psychopathy and sexual sadism* [Symposium]. Twenty-eighth annual meeting of Eastern Psychological Association, Boston, MA, United States.

Krstic, S., Martin, G., Knight, R.A., & Miner, M.H. (2013, October). *The Role of Developmental Antecedents and Interpersonal Characteristics in Adolescent Sexual Offending* [Paper presentation]. Thirty-second annual meeting of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, Chicago, IL, United States

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- **Assistant Professor of Psychology, Endicott College** (2023–present)
- **Visiting Research Scholar & Lecturer, Brandeis University** (2017–present)
- **Data Analyst, Center for Social Development and Education, University of Massachusetts Boston** (2018 – 2020)

- **Research Coordinator, Brandeis University (2010–2020)**

Design and conduct multi-method studies on psychopathy and sexual aggression; supervise student research; teach a variety of courses; coordinate large-scale data projects.

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

Courses: Forensic Psychology, Personality, Psychopathology, Contemporary Topics in Psychology, Research Methods, Statistics for Social Sciences, Tests and Measurements, Senior Research. Mentor undergraduate and graduate research on psychopathy and sexual aggression; promote empirical literacy and critical thinking.

AWARDS AND HONORS

David Cerce Outstanding Student Poster Award, Massachusetts Adolescent Sex Offender Coalition/Massachusetts Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Joint Conference, 2016

Verna Regan Award for Outstanding Performance by a Teaching Fellow in Psychology, 2014

Suzanne Feld Zalk Memorial Endowed Fellowship, 2012–2015

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Certification in Psychopathy Checklist-Revised

Training in Static-99

Training in Risk Matrix 2000

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- Co-Chair, ATSA Research Committee (since 2025)
- Member, ATSA Research Committee (since 2013)
- Board of Directors, MATSA (since 2022)
- Board of Cornerstone Assessments, Inc. (since 2025)
- Reviewer: Journal of Interpersonal Violence; Trauma, Violence, and Abuse; Journal of Sexual Aggression; Journal of Child Sexual Abuse; International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology; Journal of Forensic Psychology Research and Practice; Journal of Personality; Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment