

onlinePROTECT Conference 2014

MAY 1, 2014
HAMILTON HOUSE
LONDON, UK

“Looking is not as bad as touching – or is it?”

**Considering Risk in Offenders who use
Child Sexual Exploitation Material**

**ONE-DAY FUNDRAISING
CONFERENCE SUPPORTING...**

onlinePROTECT

Pathways of Risk and Offender Typologies in the
Exploitation of Children through Technology



We would like to welcome you to the onlinePROTECT Conference 2014, entitled “Looking is not as bad as touching – or is it? Considering Risk in Offenders who use Child Sexual Exploitation Material”.

There has been much debate about the availability of child sexual exploitation material (CSEM) on the internet, highlighted by the tragic deaths of April Jones (5 years) and Tia Sharp (12 years), whose killers viewed and collected CSEM. Discussion surrounding such cases has focused on a potentially causal link between CSEM and sexually motivated crimes against children.

Since the advent of the internet, convictions for the possession, exchange and/or production of CSEM have risen dramatically. A substantial body of research on internet sex offenders has emerged and professionals are developing a knowledge base regarding assessment and treatment needs of CSEM users. However, the question of risk remains a central concern: How likely is a CSEM user to commit a contact sex offence against a child in the future? Is there a causal link between “looking” and “touching”?

This one-day conference has been organised as a fundraising aid for the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, a child protection charity, committed to reducing the risk of children being sexually abused. Proceeds from the conference and any donations will go to the Lucy Faithfull Foundation with sincere thanks to support its work.

Derek Perkins & Hilary Eldridge

Hilary Eldridge, BA (Hons) Dip. SW, CQSW, is Chief Executive of Lucy Faithfull Foundation, a child protection charity specialising in child sexual abuse. She began working with sex offenders and their families after qualifying as a probation officer in 1975. In 1988 she co-founded a residential assessment and treatment centre for sex offenders, which was superseded by Lucy Faithfull Foundation, established in 1992. She has co-authored and monitored the charity’s assessment and treatment programmes for adult male and female offenders and for young people who engage in sexually harmful behaviours. She has consulted to probation and prisons and is an international speaker with numerous publications in the field of sexual offending, particularly regarding sexual offending by women.



Hilary was a member of the Joint Prison and Probation Accreditation Panel from 1999 to 2002, and of the Nolan Committee reviewing child protection in the Catholic Church. She was a member of HM Government’s Sexual Violence Stakeholder Advisory Group and a specialist adviser on the Department of Health and NIMHE Victims of Violence and Abuse Prevention Programme. She is currently a member of the government’s Sexual Violence Against Children and Vulnerable People Strategic Stakeholder Group. She is an Honorary Lecturer in Forensic Psychology at the University of Birmingham.

onlinePROTECT gratefully acknowledges support from:



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INTRODUCING THE LUCY FAITHFULL FOUNDATION

Lucy Faithfull Foundation is a pioneering charity working uniquely with child sexual abuse victims and offenders to create a world in which children's rights to live free from sexual, physical, emotional and mental abuse become a reality.

We are the only UK wide organization dedicated entirely to preventing child sexual abuse. Our mission is to prevent abuse from happening by working in partnership with government, charitable trusts, voluntary, statutory and private sector and the public. We contribute to scientific knowledge of sexual abuse and public policy.

The majority of children who suffer sexual abuse are abused by someone they know, someone in their family or social online or real world network. This makes it very hard for them to tell anyone. This is why we, as adults, must do all we can to protect them.

Lucy Faithfull Foundation services, programmes and projects are designed to place a protective shield around children, to help prevent abuse from happening in the first place or, if it is too late, to prevent it from happening again. Our purpose is to safeguard children and young people from sexual abuse by preventing it, responding to it and helping repair those affected by it.

We have been working across the UK since 1992 to reduce the risk of children being sexually abused. In the UK it is estimated that one in ten children suffer some form of sexual abuse before they reach the age of 16, but most incidents are not reported to the police. The impairment of children's health and development by experiencing abuse in the family or the environment is a major problem in society, especially as children grow up in an increasingly sexualized world and experience new threats. Over the years we have developed the knowledge, skills and expertise to take on this challenge.

We recognise that multiple strategies are needed to fully protect children from sexual harm so we use a comprehensive framework for preventing child sexual abuse based on a public health model of prevention to ensure our projects address the different stages of prevention and those concerned with and affected by abuse. Our specialist staff work with everyone involved in a child's life, tackling the problem from all angles so that children are as safe as they can be.

Where abuse has already taken place we work with children and families suffering abuse, with adult male and female sexual abusers, young people with harmful sexual behaviours, and their families. We also work to help adults and children who have not experienced abuse keep safe. Experienced staff provide training for professionals such as teachers, social workers, police and probation offender managers, as well as the wider community.

The comprehensive approach is the only way we can tackle child sexual abuse effectively.



- 9.00am – 9.30am Registration opens + Tea & Coffee**
- 9.30am – 9.45am **Welcome by Derek Perkins**
Introducing The Lucy Faithfull Foundation, Hilary Eldridge
- 9.45am – 10.30am **Keynote 1: Looking back: 20 Years of Internet Offending**
Ethel Quayle
- Defining the Topic Area***
- 10.30am – 10.55am **Researching Child Sexual Exploitation Material - Challenges**
Steven Gillespie
- 10.55am – 11.20am **From consuming online sexually explicit material involving children to contact offences against children: Just how slippery is the slope?**
David Glasgow
- 11.20am – 11.35am Tea & Coffee**
- 11.35am – 12.00pm **The Role of Adult Pornography and Indecent Images in Online Grooming: Findings from the European Online Grooming Project**
Stephen Webster
- 12.00pm – 12.30pm **Morning Panel (Chair: Hannah Merdian)**
Ethel Quayle, Steven Gillespie, David Glasgow, and Stephen Webster
- 12.30pm – 1.30pm Lunch**
- 1.30pm – 1.45pm **Welcome Back** by Derek Perkins
Introducing onlinePROTECT, Hannah Merdian
- Working with Users of Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CSEM)***
- 1.45pm – 2.10pm **Court assessments on CSEM Users**
Leam Craig
- 2.10pm – 2.35pm **Development of the Kent Internet Risk Assessment Tool**
Laurence Alison and Emma Hendricks
- 2.35pm – 3.00pm **Responding to Those who View Sexual Images of Children Online**
Donald Findlater
- 3.00pm – 3.15pm Tea & Coffee**
- 3.15pm – 3.45pm **Keynote 2: What Polygraphy can Tell us about Risk of Internet Offenders**
Don Grubin
- 3.45pm – 4.15pm **Afternoon Panel (Chair: Derek Perkins)**
Leam Craig, Laurence Alison, Emma Hendricks, Donald Findlater, and Don Grubin
- 4.15pm – 4.30pm **Final Thoughts and Concluding of Conference**
Hilary Eldridge and Derek Perkins

Dr. Ethel Quayle (University of Edinburgh, Scotland)

Looking Back: 20 Years of Internet Offending

The emergence of the online sexual offender has taken place during a period of considerable technological and social change. To date it is unclear whether Internet offending marks a migration of offending behaviour from one location to another, or if the affordances of technology increase the likelihood of both motivated and novice offenders to seek contact with children (or sexual images) online. This presentation explores both the changing patterns of these offences and the research that has helped shape our understanding of those who offend.



Ethel Quayle is a Senior Lecturer in clinical psychology in the School of Health in Social Science at the University of Edinburgh and Director of the COPINE research which until September 2008 was based at University College Cork, Ireland. She is a clinical psychologist and as a practitioner worked with both sex offenders and their victims. For the last fourteen years she has been conducting research in the area of technology-mediated crimes, collaborating internationally with government and non-government agencies in the context of research, policy and practice. Her most recent book with Kurt Ribisl from the University of North Carolina is called "Internet Child Pornography: Understanding and preventing on-line child abuse" (2012, Routledge Taylor-Francis). In addition to academic research activities she plays an active role in a number of government and non-government organisations.

Prof. Don Grubin (Newcastle University)

What Polygraph can tell us about Risk in Internet Offenders

Much of what is known about risk in men who download indecent images is based on material known to the authorities, reconviction studies, and information which offenders may choose to disclose in interview and treatment settings, which is often based on what they believe is already known. Examination of offenders' computers enables the quantity and quality of images to be determined, but often provides little new information regarding risk. Because polygraph testing both facilitates disclosures and allows a judgement to be made about deception, it offers the potential to gain better insight into the behaviour of internet offenders and relate it to known risk factors. This presentation will explore the theory and practice of polygraph testing in the context of internet offending, consider the available evidence, and discuss future plans for its use in this way.



Don Grubin is Professor of Forensic Psychiatry at Newcastle University, and (Hon) Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist at Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust. He is the psychiatric adviser to the National Offender Management Service sex offender treatment programmes. Although not a polygraph examiner himself, he has led two large trials of polygraph testing of sex offenders for the probation service, and carried out a study with Hertfordshire Police of the use of polygraphy in men arrested for downloading indecent images. His current interest is in developing robust mechanisms to assure the Quality Assurance of polygraph examiners.

Defining the Topic Area

With the advent of the internet, a new category of sex offenders has emerged, namely, those who use the internet in some manner to sexually offend, for example by viewing or producing Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CSEM). Webb, Crassati, and Keen (2007) described the difficulties occurring for professionals working with this new offender group:

Internet sex offending has sparked off a new wave of arrests, charges, and convictions. As a result, the courts, prison, and probation services have an influx of internet sex offenders, and questions are raised about their management and risk. Are they child molesters or are they a new type of offender? If an individual views child pornography on the internet, is he/she likely to progress to contact sex offences? (p. 449-450)

It is also of interest to know if a person caught with CSEM offending should have access to (their own) children. These questions are on the agenda of a growing professional body researching the characteristics and modus operandi of internet sex offenders. Above all, it has to be established if conventional assessment methods and treatment programs, developed and validated for sex offenders with a contact victim, can also be successfully applied to online sex offenders. If not, more suitable methods of assessment and treatment need to be introduced.

Dr. Steven Gillespie (University of Birmingham)

Researching Child Sexual Exploitation Material - Challenges

The aim of this presentation will be to highlight and discuss those issues that should be considered in conducting research with online sexual offenders. In particular we will pay attention to: (i) the importance of distinguishing between online only, contact only, and crossover sexual offenders; (ii) the need to understand the underlying motivations for online sexual offences and how these may vary for different typologies of online sexual offender; (iii) the extent to which a more general interest in sexually deviant and pornographic material may contribute to an escalation in online behaviour to include viewing indecent images of children. We will provide quotes from interview transcripts with online sexual offenders to support the importance of these considerations as well as highlighting other research evidence.



Steven Gillespie is a Research Fellow in the School of Psychology, University of Birmingham. Steven's research interests are primarily focussed on the use of cognitive-affective tests to investigate psychopathic personality in offenders and non-offenders, and the role of personality traits and cognitive-affective functioning in sexual offenders. In his role as Research Psychologist for the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, Steven has helped to design and lead an evaluation of the Inform Plus program and piloted a biofeedback intervention for improving emotion regulation among online sexual offenders.

David Glasgow (Pacific Psychological Assessment Corporation)**From Consuming Online Sexually Explicit Material Involving Children to Contact Offences Against Children: Just How Slippery is the Slope?**

This presentation will consider the nature of the relationship between the consumption of online sexually explicit material (SEM) and committing contact offences against children. Both research and case related evidence will be integrated in an attempt to generate a model incorporating possible characteristics, stages and trajectory of an individual's behaviour evolving from consumption of SEM towards contact offending. Factors such as the impact of imagery, "safe fantasy", paedophile interests, eroticised coercion, the possible role of aversion, personality factors, cognitive rehearsal and 'behavioural tryouts' will be discussed and placed within the context of an overall model. The implications for risk assessment and management of offenders with different trajectories will be discussed and a case will be made for assessment integrating self report, analysis of digital evidence and implicit assessment of sexual interests.



David Glasgow is a clinical psychologist who has worked for over 30 years in clinical and forensic settings with offenders and victims of offences. His experience includes high, medium and low secure NHS settings, as well as community forensic services. Whilst a lecturer at Liverpool University he developed and taught the SAGE special needs forensic interviewing system. He was also a founding co-director of the Forensic Behavioural Studies programme at Liverpool University. Subsequently he was a course director of the Child Forensic Studies programme at Leeds University and also the Forensic Issues programme at the (now) University of Cumbria. In 2005 he left academic and NHS work for independent forensic practice. He offers a risk assessment service in relation to potential sexual and physical harm to children, including in relation to internet offenders. He also has an interest in investigative interviewing regarding experiences of abuse. He has been a member of the In My Shoes (IMS) investigative interviewing system development team for more than 25 years, and is a registered IMS trainer. He has developed or contributed to developing a number of computer based forensic tools, including This Much! - an interactive visual analogue scale tool, the Affinity assessment of paedophile sexual interest, a revision of the Laws Sexual Deviance Sort, a computerisation of Blackburn's interpersonal CIRCLE, and also ISOPS, a procedure for structuring the assessment of internet offenders.

Dr. Stephen Webster (NatCen)**The Role of Adult Pornography and Indecent Images in Online Grooming: Findings from the European Online Grooming Project**

The sexual abuse of young people on the Internet is an international problem. To date, there has been very limited research that has attempted to understand the nature and extent of any association between indecent image use and online grooming. In response to this, the European Commission Safer Internet Plus Programme funded a consortium of researchers from across Europe to help understand the different ways online grooming develops. A key part of the study was in-depth interviews with online groomers from the UK, Norway and Belgium to understand the role that adult pornography and indecent images may play in this grooming process. This first part of this presentation will provide an overview of the European Online Grooming Project before describing evidence to help understand the following key questions: What bearing does adult pornography and indecent images have in maintaining online grooming for some sexual offenders? What is the nature and extent of the association between the viewing of indecent images and online / offline sexual offending? In the second part of the presentation, a typology of online groomers will be presented that helps explain the differential use of indecent images according to the type/style/needs of the online groomer.



Stephen Webster is Head of Crime and Justice Research at NatCen. A Chartered Psychologist with the British Psychological Society, his career includes eight years as a Senior Research Psychologist for HM Prison Service. During this time he led the research, assessment and evaluation of HM Prison Service suite of sexual offender treatment programmes. He joined NatCen in 2005 where he has continued to deliver research involving sexual offenders. This includes: leading the European Online Grooming Project for the European Commission; a MoJ evaluation of the Stable and Acute 07 pilot; work with NOMS examining how sexual offenders conceptualise their sexual interest in children; a EC evaluation of Stop it Now! in the UK and Netherlands; and a study looking at the co-location of sexual offenders in custody. Stephen is also a member of the Risk Management Authority Research Advisory Board and Department for Education UK Council for Child Internet Safety Evidence Group.

Working with Users of Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CSEM)

Consumers and producers of CSEM have been described as “one of the fastest growing groups in the criminal justice system” (Hernandez, 2009, p. 2). The increase in CSEM offenders has resulted in ad-hoc responses from correctional institutions and treatment providers, such as the establishment of sentencing guidelines for CSEMOs (e.g., Sentencing Guidelines Council, 2007) or specific treatment programmes for online sex offenders, such as the Internet Sexual Offending Treatment Programme (i-SOTP; Hayes & Middleton, 2006). Central to these movements is the question of whether conventional assessment and treatment programmes, developed and validated for contact sex offenders, can be successfully applied to CSEMOs or if, in Sheldon and Howitt’s (2007) words, “[the internet] has created, in effect, a new category of sex offender” (p. 2), which emphasises the need for a different approach to assessment and treatment. Systematic empirical research is crucial to identify potential differences and similarities between contact and non-contact sex offenders. Furthermore, if these offender groups are found to be substantially different, assessment and treatment components that were considered clinically relevant for CSEMOs require empirical validation.

Of further interest is the question of potential subgroups of CSEMOs. For example, common differentiations for contact child sex offenders are based on victim age (paedophiles vs. hebephiles), victim gender, or the offender’s relationship to their victim (intrafamilial vs. extrafamilial offenders; e.g., see classifications used by Barbaree & Marshall, 1989; Blanchard & Barbaree, 2005; Hanson & Harris, 2001). For CSEMOs, it has been suggested that individuals may require distinct offender management strategies based on the functions CSEM fulfils for them (Seto et al., 2010). If subgroups of CSEMOs can be empirically distinguished, then they may require a differentiated approach regarding their assessment and treatment; for instance, they may form different levels of risk regarding reoffending. This research is expected to inform their suitable and informative assessment, evaluations in court, and treatment approach.

Prof. Leam Craig (University of Birmingham)

Court assessments on CSEM Users

This paper presents a review of criminal and civil (child protection) court assessments of individuals who have been discovered using child sexual exploitation material (CSEM). Commonalities and differences between those who have attempted to contact children online (inciting sexual contact) versus those who have been found in possession of CSEM but have not been reported for inciting contact is explored. Although the sample is small and may not be representative, few differences emerged between the two groups.



*Leam A. Craig, BA (Hons), MSc, PhD, MAE, CSci, C.Psychol, FBPsS, EuroPsy is a Consultant Forensic and Clinical Psychologist and Partner at Forensic Psychology Practice Ltd. He is Professor of Forensic Psychology at the Centre for Forensic and Criminological Psychology, University of Birmingham. He is a Fellow of the British Psychological Society, Chartered and Registered [Forensic and Clinical] Psychologist, a Chartered Scientist and holder of the European Certificate in Psychology, permitting practice throughout the European Union. His current practice includes direct services to forensic adult mental health and learning disability hospitals and consultancy to prison and probation services throughout England and Wales and Northern Ireland. He acts as an expert witness to civil and criminal courts in the assessment of sexual and violent offenders and in matters of child protection. He has published over 70 research articles and chapters in a range of research and professional journals. He has published six books: an authored book entitled *Assessing Risk in Sex Offenders: A Practitioners Guide* (2008), and five edited books, *Assessment and Treatment of Sex Offenders: A Handbook* (2009), *Assessment and Treatment of Sexual Offenders with Intellectual Disabilities: A Handbook* (2010), *International Perspectives on the Assessment and Treatment of Sexual Offenders* (2011), *What Works in Offender Rehabilitation: An Evidence Based Approach to Assessment and Treatment* (2013), and *Assessments in Forensic Practice: A Handbook* (in press), all published with Wiley-Blackwell. He is the Lead Editor for a new book series entitled, *What Works in Offender Rehabilitation for Wiley-Blackwell*. He is currently working on a Major Reference Work on Assessment of Sexual Offenders. In 2013 he was the recipient of the Senior Academic Award by the Division of Forensic Psychology for distinguished contributions to academic knowledge in forensic psychology. He sits on the editorial boards to several journals including: *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, *Journal of Aggression, Conflict and Peace Research*, and *The Open Criminology Journal*.*

Prof. Laurence Alison (University of Liverpool) and Emma Hendricks (Kent Police)

Development of the Kent Internet Risk Assessment Tool

The Kent Internet Risk Assessment Tool (KIRAT) has been developed by officers from Kent Police and forensic psychologists from the University of Liverpool, in response to a worldwide demand for a prioritisation tool that can be used quickly, easily and reliably. At the core of the KIRAT method is a tight set of behavioural, lifestyle and occupational criteria. An in-depth review discovered that suspects satisfying these criteria could be reliably deemed as presenting a high risk of contact offending against children. KIRAT has undergone extensive validation and testing, during development and via a pilot programme involving 14 police forces. It is endorsed by the UK's Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Lead for child protection and the Chief Executive of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP).



Laurence Alison has an international track record of publishing on the subject of high stakes decision making, investigative profiling and investigative interviewing. His core area of interest is social cognition and the processes by which individuals make sense of uncertain, high risk, ambiguous, complex or contradictory information, with special reference to decision inertia, anticipatory thinking and the use of simulated environments and debriefing tools to train practitioners to overcome decision inertia and to increase the efficacy of multi agency communication. He graduated from Liverpool University with a PhD in 1998, was a lecturer in Forensic Psychology at the University of Liverpool until 2000 when he was appointed as a Senior Lecturer at University of Birmingham and returned to Liverpool and appointed as Chair of Forensic and Investigative Psychology in 2004. He works within the Psychology, Society and Health Institute, where he also serves as one of 5 Security and Conflict Champions and as one of the members of the recently formed Risk Institute. Emerging, cross faculty work includes an examination of the cognitive workload involved in retargeting mid range air to ground missiles (with Dr Ralph, engineering); the threat of CBRN weapons and their impact on decision making with Prof Gosden (Division of Pathology) mechanisms to communicate risk (with Prof Beer, engineering), argument structures in risk/threat decisions (Dr Grasso, Computer Science). He is currently also involved in a project examining decision making and interviewing with high value detainees and is about to assist Kent Police Authority in the national roll out (Spring, 2012) of a risk prioritization tool for internet sex offenders developed by University of Liverpool and Kent Police.

Emma Hendricks is a psychology graduate from the University of Exeter and an established police operational researcher. She has seven years of applied social research and analysis experience in the public sector including seven years in policing. Emma has extensive experience in police operational research, leading on significant, high profile and complex research and evaluation projects that have improved service delivery and value for money across the service. Areas of specialism include child exploitation, strategic analysis and evaluations. She is currently the Senior Operational Analyst for the Fighting International Internet Paedophilia Project (FIIP), a project designed to safeguard children across Europe.

Donald Findlater (Lucy Faithfull Foundation)

Responding to Those who View Sexual Images of Children Online

Every year, the Police in the UK arrest, caution and/or prosecute some 2000 individuals for possession (including making and/or distribution) of indecent images of children. What happens to these (mostly) men in the period between the Police visit and any court outcome? And what happens to their families during this same period and beyond? Initially introduced by most Police Forces as a suicide prevention strategy, contact with the Stop it Now! Helpline within hours or days of the police visit is becoming commonplace. Over 1,000 men have now attended the Lucy Faithfull Foundation's "Inform +" programme. Over 300 adult family members or friends have attended the parallel "Inform" programme. Over 200 men have chosen to have their home computers monitored by staff from the Foundation to aid their desistance from their past offending behaviour. This presentation will describe these service developments and their utility. It will also speculate on what else might be needed to support the families of those who have offended, as well as the offenders themselves, to take stock and to move on, by supporting them in living good lives in the future.



Donald Findlater is Director of Research and Development with Lucy Faithfull Foundation as well as Director of the Stop it Now! UK & Ireland child sexual abuse prevention campaign. The Foundation is a child protection charity concerned with all aspects of child sexual abuse prevention. For seven years, Donald was Manager of the Wolvercote Clinic, the UK's only residential assessment and treatment centre for men with allegations of or convictions for child sexual abuse. This followed a career in the Probation Service where, latterly, he was responsible for the development and delivery of Surrey Probation Service's sex offender strategy. Over recent years Donald has worked as a "subject matter expert" with the DfE in the creation and delivery of "Safer Recruitment" training programmes for Heads and Governors of schools and for recruiters into the wider children's workforce. He sat on Sir Roger Singleton's Panel advising Ministers on List 99 barring decisions and was a Board Member of the Independent Safeguarding Authority and then the Disclosure and Barring Service until December 2013. These organisations provide criminal records information to employers and maintain the Children's and Vulnerable Adults' Barred List. He sits on Surrey Safeguarding Children Board. During this time Donald has taken a keen interest in the role of the Church, both in the prevention of child sexual abuse and in the support and accountability offered to men, women and children known to represent a sexual risk to children. He has worked with the Catholic, Methodist and Anglican churches in developing and reviewing their child protection procedures. Alongside directing the work of Stop it Now! UK & Ireland, Donald is currently leading a small team in a project for an international foundation. This involves the creation of a tool to assist nations in East Africa and Eastern Europe to develop a comprehensive child sexual abuse prevention strategy. He is also exploring the practical application of situational crime prevention theories to the area of child sexual abuse and online child pornography.

Who is onlinePROTECT?

onlinePROTECT is a research collaboration led by Prof Derek Perkins and Dr Hannah Merdian that addresses the safety of children and young people in online and offline environments, by focusing on offenders who engage in online sex offences against minors. A specific research focus is the engagement in Online Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CSEM; also known as *child pornography*).

onlinePROTECT has three main research areas:

- **Offending – answers to Why? and How?:** What are the offence pathways of individuals who view CSEM? What needs do they meet with this behaviour? Are they comparable to individuals who commit contact sex offences against a minor? Are they similar to other populations, for example individuals who view legal pornography or who engage in other compulsive behaviours on the internet?
- **Establishing risk:** How likely are these individuals to reoffend once they have been caught? How likely are they to escalate their behaviour, for example by committing a contact sex offence? Can we identify certain characteristics that predict CSEM users who present as higher risk?
- **Stopping offending:** How useful are the currently available assessment tools and interventions for CSEM users in changing their behaviour? Can we learn from the offenders themselves how CSEM usage could be stopped more effectively? What needs to be part of a successful intervention for CSEM users?

The *onlinePROTECT* research programme is designed to balance the need for *knowledge generation* with *practical outcomes* for professionals who work in this area. For example, improved assessment strategies are needed by the police for the forensic analysis of confiscated computers. The offenders' suggestions about preventative methods are also informative for the internet industry, in targeting the availability and accessibility of CSEM online, and in post-arrest treatment programmes for offenders.

onlinePROTECT is guided by a steering group and is networked with national and international expert advisors from offender and victim services, psychology and computer science, police services and the National Offender Management Service. *onlinePROTECT* is a proud collaborator of the Lucy Faithfull Foundation.



Prof Derek Perkins is a consultant clinical and forensic psychologist at Broadmoor Hospital and a professor of forensic psychology at the University of Surrey. He has been involved in sex offender treatment developments in prison, community and forensic mental health settings. He currently works with sex offenders at different stages of the criminal justice and mental health systems, including psychological and psychophysiological assessments. He is on the West London Mental Health Trust Research Steering Group and is a Trustee of the Lucy Faithfull Foundation.
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Dr Hannah Merdian is a Lecturer in Forensic Psychology at the University of Lincoln. She developed the Integrated Model for the Classification, Assessment, and Treatment of Users of Child Sexual Exploitation Material to aid practitioners in the work with this offender group, and provides consultation and training for offender management and child protection services. Hannah is a member of the Research Committee of the National Organisation for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.
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onlinePROTECT Edited Journal

Conference papers are being prepared for review and publication in the Journal of Sexual Aggression, guest-edited by the onlinePROTECT team.

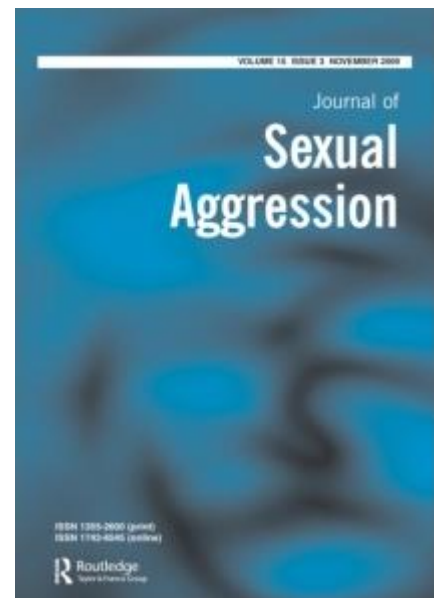
If you would like to receive more information, please contact:

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Supporting Professionals to
Prevent Sexual Abuse



If you are interested in contributing to **onlinePROTECT**
in any capacity, please contact:

Prof. Derek Perkins: derek.perkins@nhs.net

and

Dr. Hannah Merdian: hmerdian@lincoln.ac.uk

If you would like to be informed of our research and
publications, please email us or sign one of the
“onlinePROTECT MAILING LIST” sheets, in order to join
the **onlinePROTECT** research emailing list.

Many thanks - see you next year!

onlinePROTECT

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