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## Every breath you take: An examination of the natural phenomenon of stalking

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## **Every Breath You Take:**

An Examination of the Natural Phenomenon of Stalking

Sara K. Green Paige A. Heinrich Gordon A. Crews



Southern Criminal Justice Association Clear Water Beach, FLA September 17-20, 2014

### **Paper Abstract**

- This paper will consider:
  - The intentionality and motivation behind stalking (including cyberstalking)
  - Vast number of tools readily available
  - The general obsessive behavior that acts as a proclivity toward stalking
  - The conclusion that everyone is a potential stalker
  - We as a society are being conditioned by the media (particularly social media)to accept stalking as a natural phenomenon

# "The easiest way to stalk people."





### **Definition of Stalking**

## "The willful, malicious, and repeated following and harassing of another person that threatens his or her safety"

(Meloy JR, Gothard S. Demographic and clinical comparison of obsessional followers and offenders with mental disorders. Am J Psychiatry 1995; 152:258-63.)

- No universal, consensus definition
- No single classification system



## THE HOW AND THE TOOLS

#### Basic Information Needed (Name/Address)

## How it all works ...

#### Conduct Free Online Social Media Sites Search

Facebook, Friends Reunited, Classmates.com, LinkedIn, Flickr, ancestry.com, Mylife, Blogs,

MySpace, etc.



#### Conduct Free People Search Engines Search

123People, LookUp, PeekYou, Pipl, Radaris, Spokeo, Waatp, WhitePages, Wink, peoplefinders.com, yasni.com,

Yatedo<mark>, etc.</mark>

#### Conduct Free/Pay Public Records Access Search

public-records.checkpeople.com, Free Public Records Search Directory, National Sex Offender Registry, 192.com, instantcheckmate.com, backgroundcheck.peoplesmart.com, Intelius, LexisNexis, Spoke, BeenVerified, DOBSearch, etc.



If you still need more info then consider becoming an "Attractive Stranger" and make them come to you!

> You can also create a fake identity to gain personal contact with individual

to access more personal

Don't forget to Cross-Reference and save all Information Gathered!

Repeat

As

on.

Necessary!



## TYPOLOGIES AND MOTIVATIONS

## **Stalking Typologies**

Zona's Stalker-Victim Types

- Simple
  Obsessional
- Love
  Obsessional
- Erotomanic

(Zona, Palarea, & Lane, 1998)

Mullen's Stalker Typology

- Rejected
- Intimacy
  Seeking
- Incompetent
- Resentful
- **Predatory**

(Mullen, Pathe, & Purcell, 2000)



## THE RECON CONCEPT

### The RECON Typology of Stalking

Nature of previous relationship (RE) and the context (CON) in which relationship was based

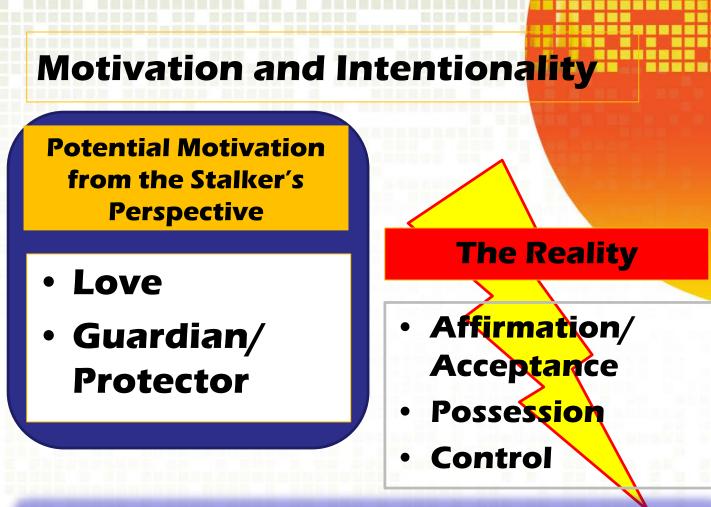
- Type I
  - Intimate and acquaintance stalkers
  - Previous
    Relationship
    with victim

- Type II
  - No previous relationship
    - Public Figure
      Stalkers
    - Private
      Stranger
      Stalkers

(Mohandie, Meloy, McGowan, & Williams, 2006)



## **THE REALITIES**



#### **Commonality:**

The intentionality and motivation of the stalker remains essentially the same, regardless as to whether the stalker has ever had a relationship with the victim I live in constant fear of accidentally mentioning something I only know about you because I've stalked you on the internet.

## WHY DO WE DO IT?

your cards

### We are all potential stalkers...

- Is the aforementioned motivation/intentionality of a stalker beyond that normal human behavior?
  - If so, what differentiates said behavior?
- Media and the use of technology (viz. the internet and social media) is conditioning society to accepting stalking as a normality

## Why do we do it?

- It is easy and free
  - a lot of information real fast
- Can be done in the privacy of our own home
- Told it will ensure our personal safety
- Naturally nosey?
- People and employers do it to us all the time....*right?*
- Anonymity!!!



## WHY DO WE ACCEPT IT?

### Why do we accept it?

- Stalking behaviors are becoming *accepted* in dating.
  - the idea of no boundaries
- Social Media promotes it
  - How many followers do you have?
- "Facebook stalking"
  - commonly accepted as discovered in various research articles (Joinson, 2008; Lyndon et al., 2011; Tom Tong & Walther, 2011; Tokunaga, 2011)

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   and personal experience!

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**Any Questions?** 

Stalking is when two people go for a long romantic walk together but only one of them knows about it.

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