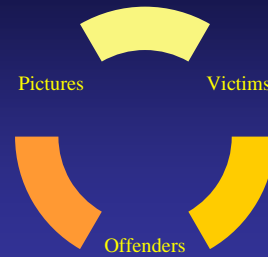


Victimisation of children through the new technologies: the offending process, young people and intervention.

COPINE Project
University College Cork
Stockholm June 2006.

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Pedophile spread child pornography from psychiatric clinic in Sweden **18:28 2005-09-05**

- A convicted pedophile used his cell phone to spread child pornography on the Internet from a psychiatric clinic in Sweden, authorities said Monday.

Prosecutor Lars Jeppsson said the man, who was not identified, had hidden a computer hard-drive inside a stereo in his room, and then used his cell phone's Internet connection to receive and distribute thousands of illegal images to other people.

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Police informer in court on child porn charge

Published: 20th March 2006 19:09 CET

- The man was a paid informer of the Swedish police and tried to draw up similar agreements with the German and British forces.

But now the man is accused of being one of Europe's leading distributors of child pornography. The trial, which opened in Umeå today, concerns whether the 31 year old was double-dealing. Was he earning money from child pornography at the same time as he was a paid police informer?

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Child Pornography

- What is it?
- Why is it a problem?

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What is child pornography

- Child Pornography is the consequence of the exploitation of sexual abuse perpetrated against a child.....any means of depicting or promoting sexual abuse of a child, including print and/or audio, centred on sex acts or the genital organs of a child.
(Interpol Standing Working Group on Offences against Minors)

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Section 10 a of the Swedish Penal Code

- depicts children in a pornographic picture,
- distributes, transfers, shows, puts such a picture of a child at another person's disposal or in another way makes such a picture available for another person,
- acquires or offers such a picture of a child for sale,
- procures contacts between buyers and sellers of such picture of children or takes another similar measure with the view to promoting trafficking in such pictures, or
- has such a picture of children in his possession

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Important Distinction between Child Pornography and pictures attractive to adults with a sexual interest in children

- Legal views and psychological approaches may differ
- Not all pictures attractive to adults with a sexual interest in children are illegal

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Typology of pictures (from Taylor et al 2001)

- 10 levels
 1. Indicative
 2. Nudist
 3. Erotica
 4. Posing
Legal/illegal?
 5. Erotic posing
 6. Explicit erotic posing
 7. Explicit sexual activity
 8. Assault
 9. Gross assault
 10. Sadistic/bestiality.

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Section 10 a of the Swedish Penal Code

- *Child refers to a person whose puberty development is not completed or who, when it appears from the picture or the circumstance in it, is under the age of 18.*
- BUT giving an age to a child post puberty is much more difficult, where the child has not been identified.

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Section 10 a of the Swedish Penal Code

- *When judging whether a crime is serious it is to be especially taken into consideration if it has been committed professionally or for the purpose of making profits, has formed part of criminal activities that have been carried on methodically or to a great extent, has concerned an especially large number of pictures or has concerned pictures where children are subjected to especially ruthless treatment.*

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Section 10 a of the Swedish Penal Code

- *The prohibitions of depiction and possession do not concern the person who draws, paints or in another similar craftsmanlike way makes such picture referred to in the first paragraph, if the picture is not meant to be distributed, transferred, shown or in another way put at other persons disposal. Also in another cases an act shall not constitute a crime if special circumstances make the act obviously justified.'*

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How much child pornography is there?

- In terms of no. of pictures, impossible question
 - Publicly available vs. private
 - Production from video dependent on technical competence and whim of producer
- More disturbing question – how many children involved?



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Getting worse?

- In 1999, dominant characteristic of material was scanned old hard copy pictures
- In 2003, dominant characteristic is new children
 - Younger (toddlers, babies)
 - Domestic material more abusive (sadistic, bondage)
 - Huge growth in web site levels 4 - 6



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Who offends on the Internet?

- We have no idea of the number of people accessing such pictures, as many will operate within private networks.
- We do know that they are a heterogeneous group and include people of all ages and from all social backgrounds.



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Who offends on the Internet?

- This may include people who have an existing offending history and others for whom there has been no previously acknowledged sexual interest in children.
- This raises very serious questions about the relationship between viewing pornographic pictures and contact offences.



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Offending Behaviour?



All *may* be associated with contact offences

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Production

- At its worst, photographs of child sexual abuse – photographs of a crime in progress
- The reality of the smiling child:
 - 'I was quite persuasive ... not in a violent way ... I was using like tactics like if you do this I'll treat you to something... so like trying to offer her stuff to ... because before that she hadn't really resisted to any of the activities as such apart from the oral sex, which she did not wanna do.'

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Distribution and trading

- Requires child abuse to produce a picture – viewing in a sense 'aiding and abetting'.
- Photograph preserves the abuse.
- Social context to the behaviour.
- Collecting context.
- Fantasy becoming reality.
- Learning element in grooming process.
- Sexualisation of children and family life.

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What is the role of the Internet?

- Traditionally, child pornography was expensive, difficult to access and carried with it a risk
 - The Internet brings with it
 - Accessibility
 - Affordability
 - Anonymity
- (Cooper et al, 2000)

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The role of the Internet?

- Alters mood
- Lessens social risk and lowers inhibitions
- Enables multiple self-representation
- Evidence of group dynamics
- Validates, justifies & offers exchange medium
- Challenges old concepts of regulation
- Disrupts conventional hierarchies
- Empowers traditionally marginalized people

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Effect of online pornography and erotica?

- Objectification of others
- Ability to fragment one's own sexuality
- Emergence of otherwise dormant anti-social inclinations
- Disinhibiting effect on behaviour

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Viewing and contact offences?

- Little evidence to support the suggestion of a causal relationship between pornography and sexual violence (Marshall, 2000)
- BUT suggestion that where there is a predisposition to offend, pornography may exacerbate this (Seto et al, 2001)

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Accidental and intentional exposure to sexualised materials

- SAFT (2003) study, almost 1 in 5 children invited to face-to-face meeting with a stranger, and 34 % had viewed violent Website, either accidentally or on purpose.
- Mitchell *et al.* (2003) 1 in 4 children who regularly used the Internet encountered unwanted sexual pictures in the year prior to data collection.
- 73 % occurred while searching or surfing the Internet, and the majority happened while at home

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Accidental and intentional exposure to sexualised materials

- Livingstone and Bober (2005) - high levels of exposure to online pornography, with 57 % having come into contact with it.
- Most of this material was viewed unintentionally, through a pop-up advert, when searching for something else or through junk mail.
- 54 % of these children claimed not to have been upset by it, but a significant minority did not like it.

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Potential problems of exposure?

- An adverse impact on current or future sexual and emotional development.
- Exposure to online deviant sexual material may act as a catalyst to engage in a sexually problematic way with another child or children.
- Finding material on the Internet leaves the young person open to sexual exploitation by others, either adults or children.

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Potential problems of exposure?

- Victimisation which may occur to other young people through accessing pictures of child abuse.
- Sexually abusive behaviours that may be construed as 'self-victimising' or 'self-harming'

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Victimisation?

- Pictures of children are used by others as an aid to sexual fantasy and behaviour.
- Children may be groomed or solicited online for sexual purposes
- Children may be victimised through exposure to pictures.
- Children may self-victimise through sending pictures by mobile phone or through the Internet.

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Function of behaviour (Longo et al, 2002)

Important to assess the function that the sexual behaviour serves for the particular young person, stressing that an indicator of sexual health for teenagers is the degree to which the sexual behaviour is in the service of developmentally appropriate sexual needs as opposed to primarily nonsexual needs.

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Examples.

- Exploring personal identity through sexuality, where surfing the web, participating in chat rooms and engaging in Internet sex may be ways of trying on multiple identities to see which fit.
- Managing negative feelings.

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Self-victimising activities?

- Camera phones...
- Web cams...
- Social networking sites...
- Chatrooms/instant messaging...
- Blogs... - nearly 36 million blogs on the Internet (Technorati, 2006)

ADULTS DO THESE TOO!

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Social context?

- Social world increasingly experienced through new technologies (television/dvds/game consoles/camera phones/MP3 players...)
- Internet gives immediate access to visual and audio material (no further 'processing' necessary).

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Social networking



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Problematic?



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MySpace.com

'who I'd like to meet: Cool kids that are open minded and that like porn and want to be apart of my movement to make it better... I'm the guy that can make it happen for real... Eon McKai, producer of alt-porn).

Send me a pic and a one sentence assay about why you can do this... You can link to a pic in the forms below or email me at...

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...send email, exchange voice messages, share photos... make voice calls using Skype... big difference is that they are using individual tools as if they were all part of a single tool... a kind of interactive, multimedia channel... all your means of communication are available on Bebo and so are all of your friends...

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Perceived risks for adolescents?

- Exposure to incorrect information about human sexual behaviour
- Exposure to age inappropriate sexual materials
- Potential to develop sexually compulsive behaviour
- Potential to develop sexual 'addiction'
- Enhancement of deviant sexual fantasies
- Masturbation to materials downloaded

– Longo (2004)

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What can we do?

- Prevention through education
- Intervention with individuals (adults and young people)
 - Treatment of those who have been victimised
 - Treatment of those who victimise
- Changing the context
 - Macro-level (social)
 - Micro-level (Internet)

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croga.org



- Education
- Exploration
- Self-help



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Situational or dispositional factors?

- Focus has been largely on inherent qualities of the individual (adult or adolescent).
- Might be useful as well to think about a rational choice model of planned behaviour and how the Internet 'affords' opportunities for problematic behaviour to arise.

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Conclusion?

- To understand behaviour in the virtual world of the Internet, we do not have to generate new principles. However we do have to recognise that the structure of the Internet as we experience it has qualities that may influence how those forces that change and modify our behaviour impinge on us.

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How might this relate to the problematic online activities of young people?

Rather than seeing problems located in the individual or in the Internet, need to see this as being a product of what the Internet affords for the individual. Rather than criminalising the activities of young people need to extend our understanding of what might happen with an unregulated medium that lacks adequate guardianship.

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