Aggressors, deviants or just delinquents?
Violent sex offenders in the Czech Republic

Stockholm Criminology Symposium, 8 – 10 June 2015

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Typologies of sex offenders

TYPOLOGIES

offence-oriented
- criminal behaviour
- offender x victim relation
- modus operandi
- daytime, locationé

offender-oriented
- psychiatric diagnosis
- marital status
- criminal career
- personalityé
Typologies of sex offenders

Sex offenders…

- non-contact sex offenders
  - rapists
  - child molesters
  - incestuous sex offenders

- contact sex offenders
  - violent sex offenders
  - non-violent sex offenders
Typologies of sex offenders

Typology based on criminal (sex) career (Porter et al., 2000)

6 categories:
- extrafamilial molester
- intrafamilial molester
- mixed intra/extrafamilial molester
- rapist
- mixed rapist / molester
- nonsexual offender (i.e. first-time sex offender)
Typologies of violent sex offenders

Typology of rapists (Groth, 1979; Groth & Birnbaum, 1979; Groth & Burgese, 1980):
- power rapists
- anger rapists
- sadistic rapists

Wortley & Smallbone, 2014:
- limited/specialized
- limited/ versatile
- persistent/ versatile
- persistent/specialized

Hazelwood & Warren, 2000:
- impulsive offenders
- ritualistic offenders

Terry, 2012:
- compensatory
- sadistic
- power/control
- opportunistic
Typologies of violent sex offenders

Massachusetts Treatment Centre - MTC:R3 (Knight & Prentky, 1990)

9 types of rapists:
- opportunistic, high social competence
- opportunistic, low social competence
- pervasively angry
- sexual sadistic, overt
- sexual sadistic, muted
- sexual non-sadistic, high social competence
- sexual non-sadistic, low social competence
- vindictive, high social competence
- vindictive, low social competence
Characteristics of sex offenders

- Rapists are more often motivated by anger, longing for violence, non-sexual motives, more serious anti-social behaviour, higher level of re-offending (both general and violent);
- Child molesters are more often socially inept, more unassertive, sexually motivated (Potter et al., 2000);
- Rapists have more common personality traits with violent non-sexual offenders than with child molesters (Marshall, Barbaree, & Fernandez, 1995; Hudson & Ward, 1997);
- Sex offenders are non-sexual offences in criminal career, interpersonal maladaptation, hostility, immaturity, impaired sense of responsibility, without capacity to acknowledge their guilt and accept consequences of their behaviour, explosive behaviour, disturbed family, education in an institutional setting and other general risk factors (Weiss & Zimanová, 1986; Brichcín, 1980; Netík, 2005)
Violent sex offences in the Czech Republic

- forcing another person to sexual intercourse (coitus or other forms of sexual intercourse)
- by violence, the threat of violence or a threat of other grievous harm OR by abusing victim’s defencelessness
- 6 months ÷ 5 years of imprisonment
- *aggravating circumstances*: against a child, with a weapon (2 ÷ 10 years), against a child under the age of 15, against person restricted in personal freedom, causing grievous bodily harm (5 ÷ 12 years), causing death (10 ÷ 18 years)

Sexual constraint (Art. 186, par. 1 of the 2009 Penal Code):
- forcing another person to masturbation, indecent exposure, or other comparable conduct
- by violence, the threat of violence or a threat of other grievous harm OR by abusing victim’s defencelessness
- 6 month to 4 years of imprisonment
- *aggravating circumstances*: against a child, with at least 2 accomplices (1 ÷ 5 years), with a weapon, against person restricted in personal freedom, by a member of organized group (2 ÷ 8 years), causing grievous bodily harm, against a child under the age of 15, (5 ÷ 12 years), causing death (10 ÷ 16 years)

„Sexual murder“ – not a self-standing criminal offence, punished as a crime of murder
Violent sex offences in the Czech Republic

**Rape: registered offences, prosecuted persons, convicted persons 2006 - 2013**

**Sexual constraint** (2010–2013): 22 to 35 registered offences per year, 5 to 16 convicted offenders per year
Research design

Research on violent sexual crime funded by the Czech Ministry of Interior’s Programme of Security Research (no. VG20122014084) at Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention in Prague (IKSP; an independent research workplace of the Czech Ministry of Justice), head of research team: Dr. Čárka Blatníková

In-depth analysis of 748 cases of violent sex offences (led to convictions)
- 702 cases of rape, 23 cases of sexual constraint, 23 cases of other offences of violent sexual nature (sexual murder, sexual robbery, restriction of personal freedom, intimidation)
  - cases where offenders were convicted in 2007–2011 (Ministry of Justice database)
  - cases where offenders were serving their prison sentence in 2011 (Prison Service database)
  - > ¾ of the full sample of convicted violent sex offenders in that period
- analysis of court files, analysis of criminal records (Penal Register), analysis of written expert opinions on mental state of offenders (psychiatrist/sexologist, psychologist)
- subsample of approx. 120 prisoners tested by MMPI and PICTS
Research design

3 levels of analysis:

**Offender**
(demographics, personality, lifestyle, criminal career, health state, mental state, substance abuse)

**Criminal case**
(court’s decision, sentence, measures imposed, legal context)

**Event**
(time and scene of crime, modus operandi, violence involved, circumstances, accomplices and witnesses, sexual practices, weapons, consequences, offender’s attitude, victim and his/her relationship to offender)
Preliminary results – demographics

Sex
- 657 men
- 5 women

Age when committing VSO
- mean: 33 years
- min.: 15 years
- max.: 65 years
- mode: 28 years

“VSO” – violent sex offence for which the offender had been convicted in a case that has been analysed

Nationality
- 86% Czech
- 6% Slovak
- 4% Ukraine
- 3% Romania
- 1% Other

Personal status
- 45% single
- 15% married
- 14% unmarried partner
- 13% divorced
- 12% widowed
- 1% n.a.
Preliminary results – demographics

**Educational environment / Formative setting**

- Care in family only: 61%
- Family, then institutional care: 15%
- Institutional, then family care: 22%
- Institutional care only: 1%
- N.a.: 1%

**Education**

- Uncompleted elementary school: 4%
- Elementary school: 38%
- Vocational education: 30%
- High school: 7%
- University: 20%
- N.a.: 1%
Preliminary results – criminal career

- **average age in the year of first conviction:** 23 years
- **first conviction as a juvenile (15 – 17 years):** 35%

**First sentence in criminal career**

- 63% imprisonment
- 29% conditional sentence
- 8% other

1999 i sample of 114 released prisoners (different offences): imprisonment 42% (Blatnikova & Netik, 2008)
Preliminary results – criminal career

Number of criminal records until the end of data collection (October 2013):
mean 5
min. 1
max. 27

Number of convictions for rape (October 2013):
mean 1.5
min. 0 (sexual murder)
max. 8

Records of previous contact with criminal justice due to an improper/illegal sexual activity:
31 %

Previous experience with imprisonment:
49 %
Preliminary results – offender’s personality

Written forensic (psychiatric, psychologist) expert opinion on mental state of offender available:
81 % (6 % just for court)

Substance addiction:
- yes 7%
- no 75%
- n.a. 18%

Experience with quasi-compulsory (“protective“) treatment – sexological t., psychiatric t., t. of alcoholism and drug addiction:
- yes 16%
- no 83%
- n.a. 1%
Preliminary results – offender’s personality

Personality assessment

- Dissocial personality disorder (MKN 10): 37%
- Abnormal structure: 22%
- Harmonic or slightly unbalanced: 22%
- N.a.: 19%

Sexual deviation (paraphilia)

- Yes: 13%
- No: 66%
- N.a.: 21%
Preliminary results – VSO

„VSO“ – violent sex offence for which the offender had been convicted in a case that has been analysed

Sentence:

VSO (2007 - 2011)

- Imprisonment: 75%
- Conditional sentence: 24%
- Other: 1%

Total Czech Republic 2011

- Imprisonment: 66%
- Conditional sentence: 17%
- Other: 17%
Preliminary results – VSO

**Length of prison sentence**
- Up to 2 years: 9%
- 2 to 5 years: 10%
- 5 to 10 years: 32%
- 10 to 15 years: 14%
- 15 to 20 years: 8%
- 20 to 25 years: 1%
- Life: 1%

**Additional sentence**
- Forfeiture of an item: 36%
- Deportation: 28%
- Prohibition to undertake certain activities: 10%
- Prohibition of residence: 14%
- Fine: 8%
- Other: 4%
Preliminary results – VSO

Imposition of "protective measures" for VSO

- 27% quasi-compulsive treatment
- 2% security detention
- 3% other
- 68% no
Conclusion

- collected data are still being processed and analysed (the end of project 12/15) with the use of multivariate explorative statistics; so far simple descriptive results available;

- preliminary results confirm assumption that violent sex offenders are much more likely individuals suffering from an dissocial personality disorder than paraphilics suffering from a certain sexual deviation;

- it makes violent sex offenders more similar to general (non-sexual) violent offenders than to non-violent sex offenders;

- findings can be used in police work (offender-profiling etc.), in developing treatment programs for different types of sex offenders (esp. paraphilic x non-paraphilic offenders), in shaping penal policy, in professional education of judges, public prosecutors, police officers and other criminal justice workers;

- a local use identified shortcomings in the Czech system of reporting and recording data on cases of (not only) violent sex offences Ź special working group of Minister of Justice Ź proposals for improvement
Thank you for your attention!

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