A personality-based classification of a community sample of male adolescent sex offenders using the Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory (MACI)

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ABSTRACT

A personality-based classification of an Auckland, New Zealand community-based sample of 298 male adolescent sex offenders was conducted using cluster analysis of the Personality Pattern scales of the Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory (MACI) scores. Three personality-based profile types were identified: a detached and socially isolated type (n=97), an antisocial, offending supportive type (n=73) and a third type with few clinically elevated personality characteristics (n=128). Further analyses resulted in significant differences among the personality-based profiles on the MACI subscales that measured response styles, adolescents’ concerns and clinical problems. Offender, offence, and victim characteristics were recorded from a retrospective file review. The results of this study provide support for high rates of previous victimisation, family dysfunction, social isolation, substance abuse, and engagement in other types of offending in male adolescent sex offenders. Furthermore, this study supports the heterogeneity of male adolescent sex offenders on personality-based and psychopathology characteristics. Although there were some emerging relationships of victim selection with the personality-based profile types, none of the analyses reached statistical significance. Furthermore, few meaningful statistically significant relationships with the profile types and offender or offence characteristics were found. This may be due to the nature of the adolescent developmental stage, whereby behaviour is fluid and persistent patterns are yet to be fully established. Alternatively, relationships of offender, offence, and victim characteristics with personality-based profiles may not exist, or are difficult to tease apart. The current research is discussed regarding personality-based interventions. The study’s strengths and limitations is also discussed.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To the sun that warms my spirit, to the waters that cool my rage, to the winds that steer my steps, to the earth that keeps me here. Thank you.

To my mother, thank you for endurance and acceptance.

To my father, thank you for passion and wonder though “I struggle to find any truth in your lies”, (Mumford & Sons, 2009, track 10).

To my brothers and sisters, thank you for joy and belonging.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APA</td>
<td>American Psychiatric Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/L</td>
<td>Academic/Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anal Pen</td>
<td>Anal Penetration</td>
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<tr>
<td>BR</td>
<td>Base Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Cluster Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBT</td>
<td>Cognitive Behavioural Therapy</td>
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<td>CV</td>
<td>Criminal Versatility</td>
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<td>CYFS</td>
<td>Child, Youth, and Family Services</td>
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<td>DBT</td>
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<td>FBI</td>
<td>Federal Bureau of Investigation</td>
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<td>FH</td>
<td>Family History</td>
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<td>Intimate Partner Violence</td>
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<td>Mean</td>
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<td>MACI</td>
<td>Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<td>NS</td>
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<tr>
<td>NZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adolescent</td>
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