The Predatory Nature of Sexual Violence

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It affects every institution and community

The only question: Is it confronted with honesty and commitment?

New Research

Critical Implications

- College women who experienced unwanted sexual contact
- Almost half reported “institutional betrayal”
- Institutional betrayal linked to increased anxiety, dissociation & sexual dysfunction

Mythology:
Most rapes are stranger attacks

Ski Mask
Knife
Blitz Attack
Brutal Injuries
Strangers
**Reality:**
Most rapes are non-stranger attacks

**The Reality about Offenders**
1. There is no “profile” of a sex offender
2. Most offenders are serial offenders
3. The vast majority of sexual assaults are perpetrated by serial offenders
4. Serial offenders are typically predatory: they identify, manipulate and exploit vulnerabilities

**Common Characteristics of Incarcerated & Undetected Rapists**
- Angry at women
- Need to dominate women
- Believe in rape myths
- Hold hypermasculine attitudes
- See women as objects to be conquered
- Have deficits in empathy
- Negative relationships with fathers
- Greater narcissism & antisocial traits

**No Profile of a Sex Offender**
- Non-rapists
- Rapists
No Profile of a Sex Offender

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Understanding the Concept of Predation

Preying on Vulnerability
Phase II
Grooming

Personal Space

What happens when you crowd someone's personal space?

One possibility...
What they’re really looking for:

FEAR

Preying on Vulnerability

- 148 trained observers spent hours in Toronto bars
- 258 aggressive incidents coded
- 90% were male aggressors & female targets
- Aggression associated with target’s level of intoxication
  NOT aggressors

Who Do They Prey On?

The Vulnerable
- Young
- New to base
- Emotionally unstable
- Heavy drinker
- Had a bad week
- Abused as a child

When the Predator Moves in...

- Manipulates social expectations
- Exploits target’s passivity, fear, naivety, desire to please, need to fit in
- Increases his interpersonal control while plying her with drinks

Phase III

Increase Vulnerability

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There are scores of drugs being used to magnify the effects of alcohol.

There are entire websites devoted to the depiction and exaltation of sexual assault of unconscious women.

**Phase IV**

**Physical Isolation**

- “You’re too drunk to drive. I’ll take you home.”
- “Let’s go somewhere where you can sleep it off.”
- “Let’s go somewhere quiet.”

**Phase V**

**The Hitchcock Moment**
**Hitchcock Moment: Example 1**

The Druktenis Case

“There's a gun in the night table drawer. You could get it and shoot me.”

**Hitchcock Moment: Example 2**

The Druktenis Case

**Key Facts**

About Sexual Predation

**Key Fact**

Sexual offenders are few in number.

About 5% admit to committing rapes.

About 3% are serial predators.

**Key Fact**

Most rapists are serial offenders.
Serial Rapists
76 men
439 rapes & attempted rapes

Single Act Rapists
44 men
44 rapes & attempted rapes

NON-RAPISTS 1,762 MEN

Violence Committed by Serial Rapists
The 76 Serial Rapists Committed:
49 sexual assaults
439 rapes & attempted rapes
66 acts physical abuse of children
277 acts sexual abuse of children
214 acts of battery
Total: 1,045 offenses

Serial Rape by Undetected Rapists:
2009 U.S. Navy Study
- 1,146 men assessed: 13% rapists
- 71% of rapists were serial offenders
- Serial offenders averaged 6 rapes

Predicting Sexual Violence
2009 U.S. Navy Study
Men who had committed a rape prior to entering the Navy were 10 times more likely to commit a rape during their 1st year in the service than men who had never before raped.

Serial Rape by Undetected Rapists: Comparing Two Studies
- 63% Serial Rapists
- 91% of all rapes by serial rapists

- 71% Serial Rapists
- 95% of all rapes by serial rapists

Serial Offending: Additional Campus Studies

“Derivation” Dataset Used in Recently Published “Trajectories” Paper

Percentage of Rapists Committing Attempted & Completed Rapes That Are Serial Rapists, Assuming No Overlap

Percentage of Rapists Committing Attempted & Completed Rapes That Are Serial Rapists, Assuming 100% Overlap

Percentage of Attempted & Completed Rapes of All Three Kinds, Assuming No Overlap, Committed by Serial Rapists

Percentage of Attempted & Completed Rapes of All Three Kinds, Assuming 100% Overlap, Committed by Serial Rapists
Serial Rape by Undetected Rapists: 2009 Campus Study

- 1,285 students; risk reduction & prevention programming; control groups
- positive impact of all programming BUT no decrease in victimization rates
- 24% of men with prior sexual assaults did it again within 4 months


Serial Rape : 2005 Campus Study

- Assessed students 3 times
- Initial assessment: 3.7% had raped since age 14
- 3 months later: Initial perps were 9 times more likely to rape during 3 month follow period
- 7 months later: Men who raped during 3 mo. period were 15 times more likely to rape during 7 month follow period


Serial Offending: College Samples

Wheeler, et al., 2002:

- Men who had committed rape or sexual assault:
  - median number: 6.5


Serial Offending: College Samples

From a 2001 Ohio U. Study

1. 298 men assessed twice, 9 weeks apart
2. 11 had raped prior to 1st test
3. 9 weeks later, 3 had raped again, 1 had committed a sexual assault


Serial Offending: Additional Community Studies

Abel et al., 1987:
126 rapists committed 907 rapes against 882 victims

Weinrott & Saylor (1991):
37 rapists charged with 66 rapes later admitted to 433 rapes

Serial Rape by Incarcerated Rapists

Abel et al., 1987:
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37 rapists charged with 66 rapes later admitted to 433 rapes
Patterns of Violent Crime

From 30-year longitudinal study:

- Hard-core predators few in number and rarely punished
- 7% of study cohort committed 66% of all violent crimes & 75% of all rapes
- Predators committed 12 crimes for every arrest


Key Fact

Most rapes involve planning & premeditation.

The “Frank” Tape

1. Stalking vulnerability: “Scouting for targets...”; whom does he target?
2. Grooming: “Real honor...”; “Psych’ed up...”;
3. Increase vulnerability: “Home brew...”; “Real woozy, so...”;
4. Isolation: The designated room;
5. Cognitive distortions: “1,000 times before...”; “Pissed me off...”; “She was plastered, maybe that’s why...”

Implications for Investigation & Adjudication

Key Implication

Investigating sexual assault is very different from investigating plagiarism.
**Duke 2015**
- Freshman student wakes up with no memory but signs of sexual assault
- She had been coaxed to a bedroom but refused
- Then given hot chocolate …
- Fraternity suspended pending investigation

**Duke 2015**
- Victim cannot remember what happened.
- Is this another he said/she said case?

**Duke 2015**
- Durham PD investigates
- Collect phone records of all students involved
- Seize computers, cell phones & access social media accounts
- Seize clothing, used condoms, bedding, etc

**Duke 2015**
- Investigation yields multiple, potentially incriminating text messages
- Corroborates other evidence indicating where victim was taken

**Key Implication**
Prevention efforts must be targeted and comprehensive.