

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/326742993>

# Sexual Abuse's New Person First Guideline

Article in *Annals of Sex Research* · August 2018

DOI: 10.1177/1079063218783798

CITATION

1

READS

175

1 author:



**Michael C Seto**

University of Ottawa

267 PUBLICATIONS 10,016 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE

Some of the authors of this publication are also working on these related projects:

Project

Incest aversion, Inbreeding avoidance, and Intra-familial sexual abuse [View project](#)

Project

Sexual Abuse (journal) editorials & guidelines [View project](#)

# Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of This Journal

Sexual Abuse  
2018, Vol. 30(6) 619–621  
© The Author(s) 2018  
Article reuse guidelines:  
sagepub.com/journals-permissions  
DOI: 10.1177/1079063218792645  
journals.sagepub.com/home/sax



It is wonderful to recognize that the 2018 volume of *Sexual Abuse* represents the 30th anniversary of this journal, which began in 1988 as a general sexology journal called *Annals of Sex Research*, founded by Ron Langevin in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Ron's research was focused on sexual behavior and the brain, but there were very few—if any—journals interested in publishing those findings. So, he thought, why not start a journal that would focus specifically on forensically oriented sex research?

In those early years of the journal, Ron was the head of the research psychology department at what was then known as the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry—a large psychiatric teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Toronto and now part of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). Many Canadian members of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) spent at least some time working at the Clarke or CAMH, including the three most recent Editors-in-Chief<sup>1</sup> (Barbaree, Cantor, and Seto) and many members of the journal's current editorial board (Cantor, Hanson, Lalumière, Langton, Stephens, Wilson, and Worling).

The original issues of *Annals* were the result of a “mom and pop” effort by Ron and his wife Suzanne Curnoe, with help from whichever research assistants Ron had at the time. Many of the first articles reflected Ron's work with his research collaborators, but he also strove to include work by his colleagues in Canada and around the world. Following a peer review process, Ron and Suzanne would organize and photocopy the pages of an issue and then bind them together in their basement, with some additional work done at a clinic they ran a short drive away in Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada.

Even from its first issues, it was clear that research focusing on paraphilias and sexual offending were an increasingly prominent theme. It was no surprise that the journal became the official journal of the ATSA in 1993, with a name change to *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment* (recently revised to *Sexual Abuse* in 2017).

It is fascinating to look at the early issues of *Annals of Sex Research* to see how much progress we have made on some topics, such as perpetrator characteristics and risk assessment, and how we are returning to research questions raised over 30 years ago. For example, the first two issues of *Annals* had several papers on the neurobiology of sexual offending (e.g., Hucker, Langevin, & Bain, 1988), something that the field has picked up again as new brain scanning technologies have become more available (e.g., Cantor et al., 2015). Early issues of the journal included preliminary results from the Sex Offender Treatment Evaluation Project run in California, still the largest

and arguably the most important randomized clinical trial evaluating treatment for adults who have sexually offended (Miner, Marques, Day, & Nelson, 1990; the final evaluation results were also published in this journal, by Marques, Wiederanders, Day, Nelson, & Van Ommeren, 2005), and validation studies of phallometric testing for sexual arousal to rape (e.g., Lalumière & Quinsey, 1993; Marshall, Seidman, & Barbaree, 1991). Seminal articles on etiology, assessment, and treatment have been published over the past 30 years: We have come a long way, and there is still much more work to do.

Prominent researchers have published in *Annals of Sex Research*, including many recipients of the Lifetime Significant Achievement Award from the ATSA, including Karl Hanson, with a review of the evidence regarding the impact of sexual assault on women and children (Hanson, 1990), Marshall and Barbaree, in the validation study mentioned earlier, Judith Becker and colleagues on the development of an adolescent cognitions measure (e.g., Hunter, Becker, Kaplan, & Goodwin, 1991), and inaugural award winner, Kurt Freund (1991), reviewing the history of the phallometric method he developed.

Seto (2015) has described the later history of this journal, under the editorships of Barry Maletzky, Judith Becker, Howard Barbaree, and then James Cantor. As noted in the same inaugural editorial, journal's research, policy, and practice impacts and reach have continued to grow. Indeed, the 2017 impact factor is the highest it has ever been (3.444), making *Sexual Abuse* the highest impact journal focusing on perpetration of sexual exploitation and abuse, and a high impact journal more generally in clinical and forensic social sciences. These metrics reflect the contributions of many editors, editorial board members, reviewers, and authors over the past 30 years, for which we are very thankful.

Michael C. Seto  
 Royal Ottawa Health Care Group  
 Robin J. Wilson  
 Wilson Psychology Services LLC

## Note

1. Seto's first publication was in a 1992 issue of *Annals*, a literature review about the role of anxiety in sexual arousal (Seto, 1992). Robin Wilson wins for earliest publication in *Annals* among current Editorial Board members, with a paper about voyeurism and exhibitionism published in 1988 under his previous name of Robin Watson (Freund, Watson, & Rienzo, 1988).

## References

- Cantor, J. M., Lafaille, S., Soh, D. W., Moayed, M., Mikulis, D. J., & Girard, T. A. (2015). Diffusion tensor imaging of pedophilia. *Archives of Sexual Behavior, 44*, 2161-2172. doi:10.1007/s10508-015-0629-7
- Freund, K. (1991). Reflections on the development of the phallometric method of assessing erotic preferences. *Annals of Sex Research, 4*, 221-228. doi:10.1007/BF00850054

- Freund, K., Watson, R., & Rienzo, D. (1988). The value of self-reports in the study of voyeurism and exhibitionism. *Annals of Sex Research, 1*, 243-262. doi:10.1007/BF00852800
- Hanson, R. K. (1990). The psychological impact of sexual assault on women and children: A review. *Annals of Sex Research, 3*, 187-232. doi:10.1177/107906329000300204
- Hucker, S., Langevin, R., & Bain, J. (1988). A double blind trial of sex drive reducing medication in pedophiles. *Annals of Sex Research, 1*, 227-242. doi:10.1007/BF00852799
- Hunter, J. A., Becker, J. V., Kaplan, M., & Goodwin, D. W. (1991). Reliability and discriminative utility of the Adolescent Cognitions Scale for juvenile sexual offenders. *Annals of Sex Research, 4*, 281-286. doi:10.1007/BF00850058
- Lalumière, M. L., & Quinsey, V. L. (1993). The sensitivity of phallometric measures with rapists. *Annals of Sex Research, 6*, 123-138. doi:10.1007/BF00849303
- Marques, J. K., Wiederanders, M., Day, D. M., Nelson, C., & Van Ommeren, A. (2005). Effects of a relapse prevention program on sexual recidivism: Final results from California's Sex Offender Treatment and Evaluation Project (SOTEP). *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment, 17*, 79-107. doi:10.1007/s11194-005-1212-x
- Marshall, W. L., Seidman, B. T., & Barbaree, H. E. (1991). The effects of prior exposure to erotic and nonerotic stimuli on the rape index. *Annals of Sex Research, 4*, 209-220. doi:10.1177/107906329100400302
- Miner, M. H., Marques, J. K., Day, D. M., & Nelson, C. (1990). Impact of relapse prevention in treating sex offenders: Preliminary findings. *Annals of Sex Research, 3*, 165-185. doi:10.1007/BF00850869
- Seto, M. C. (1992). A review of anxiety and sexual arousal in human sexual dysfunction. *Annals of Sex Research, 5*, 33-43. doi:10.1007/BF00849875
- Seto, M. C. (2015). Looking back, looking forward. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment, 27*, 147-150. doi:10.1177/1079063215575781