

Pre-Conference Seminar (III)

MAKING SENSE OF TREATMENT MODELS FOR SEXUAL OFFENDERS

*Presenter: Franca Cortoni, Ph.D., C. Psych.,
School of Criminology, Universite de Montreal*

Workshop Description

With the proliferation of treatment models for sexual offenders (Relapse Prevention; Self-Regulation; Risk-Need-Responsively; Good Lives) and ongoing debates regarding their use (e.g., ATSA Forum, Vol. XX, Summer 2008, and Vol. XXI, Winter 2009), clinicians may wish to apply the latest treatment models, but be unsure about why and how to do it. This workshop is designed to help clinicians make sense of the latest treatment models. As part of the workshop, the differences among the treatment models will be outlined and their strengths and limitations will be examined. The interactions among these models within treatment will be discussed and a review of the empirical evidence for or against each model will be provided. Finally, a simplified framework to guide the treatment of sexual offenders will be presented. This framework incorporates the latest theoretical thinking and empirical findings on sexual offenders and provides a rationale for a simplified, yet systematic, approach to their treatment. The goal is for clinicians develop a clear rationale about the treatment approach they choose to apply in their own settings.

Learning Objectives

1. Participants will understand the theoretical basis for the original various treatment models.
2. Participants will understand the empirical evidence for and against each model.
3. Participants will understand how current treatment applications can be combined to capitalise on the strengths of each model to treat sexual offenders.
4. Participants will understand fundamental principles they should use to develop their own treatment rationale.

Biography

Franca Cortoni received her Ph.D. in clinical and forensic psychology from Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Since 1989, she has worked with and conducted research on male and female offenders in a variety of Canadian and Australian penitentiaries and community settings. In addition, she has provided consultancy and training services in the assessment, treatment, and management of sexual offenders in Canada, Australia, the U.S., and England. Her audiences include parole officers and parole board members, psychologists and criminologists, police forces (including Interpol) and criminal court judges. Formally with the Correctional Service Canada, Dr Cortoni is now with the School of Criminology at the Université de Montréal. Her research interests include factors associated with the development of sexual offending behavior, risk assessment and treatment of both male and female sexual offenders.