

18th Conference

IATSO



International Association for the
Treatment of Sexual Offenders



Successes and failures in preventing sexual violence

Empirical findings, new concepts, and intercultural
perspectives

Conference Information Map

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Welcome to IATSO 2025

Successes and failures in preventing sexual violence – Empirical findings, new concepts, and intercultural perspectives

On behalf of the Scientific and Local Organizing Committees, we would like to invite you to the 18th conference of the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO) in Poznań. The conference takes place from August 26th to August 29th, 2025 at the Adam Mickiewicz University (UAM).

This time, we would like to highlight that the assessment, treatment and research about individuals who have committed sexual offenses are highly impacted by various context variables. One layer of the context is public policy. Our actions are often criticized by policy makers or the general public and they may be under heavy pressure. Public policies related to sexual violence require our participation but they are also evaluated by research efforts. Other layers of the context include cultural differences, knowledge gathered in various academic fields (such as psychology, law, medicine or general sexology) and requirements of the organizations within which we operate (e.g. prison service or university).

Taking these and other layers of the context into consideration, it becomes visible how complex the task of preventing sexual violence is. However, we believe that facing this complexity is a way to understand our successes and failures and make our work more effective.

*We welcome you to four exciting days in
Poznań*



Framework Conditions

IATSO 2025 will be a hybrid conference which can be attended

on-site

or

virtually



IATSO 2025 will be a hybrid conference which can be attended on-site or virtually. However, in contrast to our previous conferences, **only the sessions of the main hall - this includes every keynote - will be live-streamed**. All the sessions of the main hall and all the parallel sessions on Thursday will also be recorded and stored in our video gallery. They will be accessible for three months (until December 1st, 2025) to all registered participants of the 18th IATSO conference 2025. IATSO does not provide any option for downloading and distributing them.

This means that only on-site participants have the full conference ticket. In addition to their access to the conference site, they also have access to the virtual conference and the recorded videos. For virtual participants, the conference starts at 1:00 PM on August 27th with the opening ceremony.

Presenters need to attend the conference on-site in order to give their presentations. Except for the keynotes, all presenters have to register for the conference and pay the conference fee for on-site participation.

On Tuesday, August 26th, there will be the **Prevent and Protect Through Support (2PS) Project Knowledge Transfer Workshop**. The workshop is included in the on-site conference ticket but you need to register for it separately. You can book your seat [here](#).

On Wednesday, August 27th, there will be our **pre-conference workshops**. Pre-conference workshops are also for on-site participants only. However, we need to charge a small additional fee (30 Euros) for attending a pre-conference workshop.

Also on Wednesday, August 27th, there will be a show revealing the secrets of **Saint Martin croissants** and other Poznań specialities in the main conference hall. The show includes a demonstration of how to make St. Martin's croissants, with audience participation, as well as information on the legend of their origin. And, of course, there will be a croissant tasting session! You will also have the opportunity to learn about elements of the Poznań dialect, identity, and stereotypes. This event will not be live-streamed or recorded.

On Thursday, August 28th, there will be an introduction of **SAARNA** by R. Karl Hanson. SAARNA will not be live-streamed or recorded.

Also on Thursday, August 28th, on-site participants are invited to our legendary **conference dinner**. This will take place at the **Brovaria Restaurant** in the city center. The address is ul. Stary Rynek 73-74, 61-772 Poznań.

On Friday, August 29th, we will have our award ceremony.

If you have any questions, please contact: office@iatso.org

Conference Venue



IATSO 2025 will take place at the Adam Mickiewicz University (UAM). The address of the conference site is: St Szamarzewskiego 89, 60-568 Poznań.



The conference registration desk is in front of the main hall of the conference. The main hall is in the building next to the piano.



Schedule at a Glance

This schedule is subject to change. Everything written in *blue* AND *italics* is for on-site participants only and will NOT be live-streamed.

Note: IATSO offers snacks throughout the conference for all on-site participants. However, lunch is not included in the conference ticket!

Day 1: Tuesday, August 26th, 2025

Prevent and Protect Through Support (2PS) Project Knowledge Transfer Workshops (for on-site participants only)

Participation is free, but registration is needed. Book your seat [here](#).

Day 2: Wednesday, August 27th, 2025

08:00 AM-Open End: Registration (for on site-participants)

09:00 AM-11:30 AM: Pre-conference workshops (for on-site participants who signed up for a pre-conference workshop)

11:30 AM-12:30 PM: Lunch Break

12:30 PM-01:00 PM: Opening ceremony

01:00 PM-01:45 PM: Tony R. Beech (United Kingdom): "How can an understanding of neuropsychology help in the assessment and treatment of individuals who have committed sexual offences?"

01:45 PM-02:00 PM: Short break

02:00 PM-02:45 PM: Elizabeth Letourneau (USA): "Failed policies: US sex offenders registration, public notification, and civil commitment"

02:45 PM-03:30 PM: Filip Szumski (Poland): "Sex offenders registration, public notification, and civil commitment. Implementation in Poland"

03:30 PM-03:45 PM: Short Break

03:45 PM-05:15 PM: Free presentations (seven parallel sessions – only the main conference hall will be live-streamed. Please note that only sessions from the main hall and Thursday sessions will be recorded)

05:15 PM-06:15 PM: Meet & Greet (incl. finger food) & Poster Session

06:15 PM-07:15 PM: Saint Martin croissants and other Poznań specialities (main conference hall)

Day 3: Thursday, August 28th, 2025

08:45 AM-Open End: Registration (for on site-participants)

09:00 AM-09:45 AM: Kelly M. Babchishin (Canada): "Working through the puzzle: Understanding dyadic and family roles in incest across different relationship types"

09:45 AM-10:30 AM: Sonja Etzler & Julia Sauter (Germany): Psychoanalysis in the treatment of sexual offenders - An outdated concept or an underestimated potential?

10:30 AM-11:00 AM: Break

11:00 AM-11:45 AM: Furaha-Joy Sekai Saungweme (Zimbabwe): "The Economic Impact of Sexual Violence in Civil Conflict: Lessons from the DRC v Uganda ICJ Judgment"

11:45 AM-12:30 PM: Maria Aparcero Suero (USA): "Cultural considerations in sex offender risk assessment and treatment"

12:30 PM-01:30 PM: Lunch

01:30 PM-03:00 PM: Free presentations (seven parallel sessions – only the main conference hall will be live-streamed. Please note that only sessions from the main hall and Thursday sessions will be recorded)

03:00 PM -03:15 PM: Short Break

03:15 PM-04:45 PM: Free presentations (seven parallel sessions – only the main conference hall will be live-streamed. Please note that only sessions from the main hall and Thursday sessions will be recorded)

04:45 PM-05:00 PM: Short Break

05:00 PM-06:00 PM: Free presentations (seven parallel sessions – only the main conference hall will be live-streamed. Please note that only sessions from the main hall and Thursday sessions will be recorded)

06:00 PM-07:00 PM: SAARNA Meet & Greet (for on site-participants)

07:30-Open End: Conference Dinner at Brovaria

Day 4: Friday, August 29th, 2025

08:15 AM-Open End: Registration (for on site-participants)

08:30 AM-09:00 AM: Award Ceremony

09:00 AM-09:45 AM: Thore Langfeldt (Norway): "The history and current state of our understanding of pedophilia"

09:45 AM-10:30 AM: Michael H. Miner (USA): "Research with adolescents who have engaged in harmful sexual behavior: What we've learned and implications for treatment and prevention"

10:30 AM-10:45 AM: Short Break

10:45 AM-11:30 AM: Michał Lew - Starowicz (Poland): Hypersexuality and sexual offending

11:30 AM-12:15 PM: Theresa A. Gannon (United Kingdom): Treatment for men who have sexually offended: Tips for success

12:15 PM-01:15 PM: Lunch

01:15 PM-02:15 PM: Free presentations (seven parallel sessions – only the main conference hall will be live-streamed. Please note that only sessions from the main hall and Thursday sessions will be recorded)

02:15 PM-02:30 PM: Short Break

02:30 PM-03:30 PM: Free presentations (seven parallel sessions – only the main conference hall will be live-streamed. Please note that only sessions from the main hall and Thursday sessions will be recorded)

03:30 PM-04:00 PM: Closing Ceremony

Pre-Conference Workshops

Pre-Conference Workshops take place on August 27th in the morning. On-site participants can book them with an extra fee of 30 Euros. They will not be live-streamed and will not appear in the video gallery.

- **Workshop 1: *Strategies for treatment of sex offenses against children with relationship therapy***
(Thore Langfeld, Norway)

This workshop will present a neuropsychological model for understanding the development of sexual offensive behavior against minors. The model is based on old and recent research on amygdala. In the 1950th Kaada at the Neurophysiological institute in Oslo demonstrated sexual and emotional responses from stimulating amygdala and hypothalamus. Later in the 60th King et al. showed that these responses in kittens first appeared in hypothalamus and later in amygdala. Then Pellegrino in 1992 published the discovery of mirror neurons. The Still Face experiment from 1975 made by Tronick, is an excellent demonstration of the mirror neurons and amygdala (on YouTube).

The relationship therapy will be demonstrated in relation to thalamus, amygdala and hippocampus and the role in forming bonding and sexuality. It is well documented that attachment problems is related to the development of sexual offensive behavior. Bill Marshall published several articles in the 1990th demonstrating how attachment problems and bonding are essential in the development of sexual offensive behavior. I will demonstrate with case histories how sexual bonding in childhood is related to development of sexual offence of children and its relevance to therapy. The workshop is open for presenting case histories.

- **Workshop 2: *Sexual Violence in Civil Conflict: An Overview of Africa's Response*** (Furaha-Joy Sekai Saungweme & Megan Cistulli, Zimbabwe & USA)

Conflict-related sexual violence has devastating and harmful effects on survivors' physical, sexual, reproductive, and mental health, and destroys the social fabric of communities. Lack of respect for international law, arms proliferation, political interests, economic and national security factors are but some of the underlying layers of civil conflict and which invariably result in systemic and widespread sexual violence of women as a strategy. Sexual violence has been recorded in many armed conflicts across Africa. Our workshop will focus on case studies from in Sierra Leone, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Central African Republic (CAR) and Ethiopia. UN reports and international courts have provided clarity as to how sexual violence may constitute an instrument, tool or weapon of war. "When acts of sexual violence are linked to a military or political objective and intended to serve a strategic aim of the conflict, they amount to the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war."

- **Workshop 3: *From risk to rehabilitation: Best practices for supervising and treating individuals involved in child sexual exploitation materials* (Kelly M. Babchishin & Maaïke L. Helmus, Canada)**

Effectively managing individuals involved in child sexual exploitation materials (CSEM) requires a comprehensive, evidence-based approach that integrates risk assessment, tailored treatment, and structured supervision. This workshop provides practitioners with practical tools and strategies to navigate the unique challenges of working with this population. Participants will learn about validated risk assessment tools, explore treatment interventions that address individual needs, and develop supervision plans that balance public safety with opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration. Real-world case examples will be used throughout to illustrate concepts and enhance understanding of key concepts. By the end of this workshop, participants will leave with actionable insights and enhanced skills to assess risk, tailor interventions, and develop effective supervision plans grounded in the latest research and best practices in the field.

- **Workshop 4: *Changing the paradigm? Exploring implications of recent findings on treatment and assessment of adolescent males* (Michael H. Miner, USA)**

This interactive workshop will explore changes in conceptualizing treatment and assessment needs of adolescent males who have been adjudicated for harmful sexual behavior. We will start from assumptions made in a 1993 taskforce, some of which appear to still drive treatment and assessment today, and from IATSO's Guidelines for Treatment of Juvenile Sex Offenders, which were adopted in the early 2000's. This workshop will explore research findings from studies of etiology, assessment and treatment outcome and their implications for how we view youth who have committed sexual harm, whether models being promulgated address the needs of youths, and how accumulated knowledge of the risks posed by youth affect how we conceptualize treatment and supervision needs. Discussion of how treatment, assessment, and supervision are informed by differing conceptions across countries will form a major emphasis of this workshop.

- **Workshop 5: *Wysokie czy bardzo wysokie ryzyko recydywy? Możliwości oceny ryzyka recydywy sprawców na potrzeby Ustawy z 22.11.2013 (Engl.: High or very high recidivism risk? The possibilities of recidivism risk assessment under the Polish SVP law (the Act of 22 November 2013)) -> This workshop will be in Polish!* (Filip Szumski, Poland)**

Warsztat dotyczy możliwości wykonania oceny ryzyka recydywy w warunkach określonych przez Ustawę z dnia 22 listopada 2013 r. o postępowaniu wobec osób z zaburzeniami psychicznymi stwarzających zagrożenie życia, zdrowia lub wolności seksualnej innych osób [zwanej dalej ustawą]. Ustawa pozwala m.in. na izolację postpenitencjarną osób uznanych za stwarzające zagrożenie. Kluczowe znaczenie dla możliwości orzeczenia tego środka zabezpieczającego ma ocenienie ryzyka recydywy jako „bardzo wysokiego”.

Warsztat składa się z trzech części. Pierwsza z nich dotyczy podstawowych informacji nt. procedury oceny ryzyka recydywy: rodzaje czynników ryzyka i rodzaje podejść do procesu oceny ryzyka recydywy.

Druga dotyczy specyficznych trudności w zakresie oceny ryzyka recydywy przeprowadzanej po powołaniu zgodnie z Ustawą. Są to: (1) problem zakresu kategorii zdarzeń objętych prognozowaniem, (2) problem różnicowania pomiędzy

górnymi podkategoriami ryzyka recydywy oraz (3) problem braku pełnych polskich adaptacji narzędzi do oceny ryzyka recydywy.

Trzecia część warsztatu jest poświęcona rekomendacjom. Konsekwencją w/w ograniczeń jest nie brak możliwości oceny ryzyka na potrzeby Ustawy a jego mniejsza precyzja. Problem braku polskich adaptacji może być rozwiązany poprzez walidację odpowiednich narzędzi, natomiast dwa pozostałe problemy wynikają wprost z rozwiązań zawartych w ustawie i przy aktualnym jej brzmieniu nie mogą być rozwiązane. Zatem główną konkluzją płynącą z przedstawionej pracy jest konieczność brania omówionych ograniczeń uwagę przez biegłych, uczestników postępowania i organy procesowe. Ocena ryzyka na potrzeby Ustawy powinna być oparta na pomiarze wszystkich rodzajów czynników ryzyka, w tym przede wszystkim statycznych, następnie dynamicznych stabilnych a w ostatniej kolejności dynamicznych ostrych. R. W przypadku sprawców przestępstw związanych z przemocą konieczna jest ocena ryzyka recydywy związanej z przemocą, natomiast w przypadku przestępców seksualnych należy ocenić ryzyko recydywy zarówno seksualnej, jak i związanej z przemocą.

Keynote Presentations

- **Keynote Presentation 1:** *The history and current state of our understanding of pedophilia* (Thore Langfeldt, Norway)

It was an Austrian journalist and gay activist who in 1869 published three new concepts in sexology. It was homosexuality, heterosexuality and monosexuality. He claimed that homosexuality was an inborn phenomenon. This word, homosexuality, was grabbed by other activist at that time, and in 1886 Krafft-Ebing used the term in his book *Psychopathia Sexualis*. It soon became understood as a sexual orientation. Both hetero- and homosexuality were considered as an orientation. This was an important step in normalizing homosexuality. In the late 60's and early 70's pedophile activist wanted to have the same status and claimed that pedophilia was a sexual orientation independent of homo- and heterosexual orientation. This term automatically entered the medical vocabulary as a truth without discussion. Because pedophilia was an orientation like homosexuality, it could not be changed. Treatment strategies appeared to help people to stop the behavior, and "Relapse prevention programs emerged" with rather limited effects. By the major revelation in 2002 of Catholic priests who had abused mainly boys, leading to that "The pedophile orientation" took responsibility away from the already vulnerable homosexual Catholic priests. This way they could exclude the pedophiles. New groups arrived trying to prove that pedophilia was a sexual orientation. In 2009 I sent a paper to Archives of Sexual Behavior about men offending children and we found that men who offended boys mainly had homosexual orientation and men how offended girls were heterosexual was not well received. The paper was refused by a referee who was fighting for that pedophilia was a sexual orientation. The paper was printed in IATSO journal in 2010. When the same referee tried to coup DSM-5 new edition in 2013 by claiming that pedophilia was a sexual orientation, the American Psychiatric Association immediately stopped the first edition and changed the concept to pedophile disorder. (Journal of psychology and behavior research. Langfeldt 2024). New research and understanding on mirror-neurons in amygdala open up new perspectives in the development of abusive behavior against children with implications for therapy.

- **Keynote Presentation 2:** *How can an understanding of neuropsychology help in the assessment and treatment of individuals who have committed sexual offences?* (Anthony R. Beech, UK)

As Mokros (2022) observes, "There is an accumulating basis of knowledge showing that risk factors for sexual offending such as sexual deviance, antisociality, psychopathy, and problems of self-regulation are associated with peculiarities in brain structure or functioning." But where do these risk factors originate? This presentation, incorporating ideas from the rapidly advancing field of neuroscience, aims to explore this question by drawing on what we know about the histories of individuals who commit crime. It is argued that a better understanding of the causes and mechanisms of criminality (especially sexual offending) can inform and enhance both risk assessment current treatment approaches..

- **Keynote Presentation 3: *Hypersexuality and sexual offending* (Michał Lew – Starowicz, Poland)**

When the concept of Hypersexual Disorder (Kafka, 2010) was rejected by the American Psychiatric Association from DSM-5, one of the pronounced legal concerns was the risk of misapplication of the diagnosis as mitigating factor in cases of sexual violence or use of illicit pornographic content. More recently, when Compulsive Sexual Behaviour Disorder was introduced as a new diagnostic entity to the ICD-11, a possible co-occurrence with paraphilic disorder has been acknowledged (WHO, 2022). The aim of this presentation is to discuss partially overlapping concepts of CSBD and paraphilic disorders, their comorbidity, diagnostic and treatment challenges especially in cases of actual or at-risk-of sexual offending. .

- **Keynote Presentation 4: *Sex offenders registration, public notification, and civil commitment. Implementation in Poland* (Filip Szumski, Poland)**

Both sex offenders registration and public notification (SORN) and sex offenders civil commitment (CC) have high level of support within the community and moderate level of support among professionals. This is despite the lack of empirical evidence of their effectiveness. In Poland, CC was introduced by the Act of November 22, 2013 and SORN by the Act of May 13, 2016. Both solutions were clearly inspired by solutions from the United States. During the lecture: (1) I will describe the Polish version of SORN and CC. (2) I will present the history of the introduction of SORN and CC in Poland, including a description of the actions of professionals who tried to influence the legislative process to stop or mitigate the negative effects of these solutions. Based on this, I will try to answer the question: what can professionals around the world do to mitigate the effects of harmful sex offender legislation? (3) I will analyze the operation of the criminal justice system from the perspective of general system theory in order to explain the reasons for the introduction of SORN and CC, the reasons for maintaining the functioning of these solutions, and the possible influence of professionals on the functioning of SORN and CC.

- **Keynote Presentation 5: *The Economic Impact of Sexual Violence in Civil Conflict: Lessons from the DRC v Uganda ICJ Judgment* (Furaha-Joy Sekai Saungweme, Zimbabwe)**

Sexual violence in armed conflict continues to be fueled by lack of accountability, impunity and lawlessness in a context where the erosion of international human rights norms is often normalized. Victims of sexual violence encounter multiple forms of discrimination and socio-economic barriers before their cases are brought before national or international courts. When evidence of sexual violence is properly presented and accepted by the courts, as was the case of DRC V Uganda brought before the ICJ, reparation claims ought to be considered and awarded to the victims. Unfortunately, the ICJ armed activities case demonstrated a fundamental failure of applying the equitable considerations for survivors of sexual violence in armed conflict. In my keynote, I will argue why reparations are the most victim-centered justice mechanism available and the most significant means of making a difference in the lives of victims. I will also demonstrate why the ICJ is well positioned to adopt equitable considerations relevant to the situation of victims of sexual violence in armed conflict. Based on the lessons learnt from this ICJ judgment and the missed opportunity to provide a comprehensive ruling which afforded specific reparations for victims of sexual violence, my presentation will include recommendations. The recommendations are particularly insightful and relevant against the backdrop of the African Union 2025 theme of the year “Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations.” The theme intends to address historical injustices, including the trans-Atlantic slave trade, colonialism, apartheid, and genocide, unfortunately it is silent on the question of reparations for victims of sexual violence, one of the most egregious forms of violations of international law with current and ongoing impact in civil conflict realities.

- **Keynote Presentation 6: *Working through the puzzle: Understanding dyadic and family roles in incest across different relationship types* (Kelly M. Babchishin, Canada)**

Incest challenges fundamental assumptions about family dynamics and relational roles. Despite its prevalence, the mechanisms underlying sexual abuse within families are complex and poorly understood. In this keynote, I will examine the latest theoretical frameworks and empirical findings to illuminate dyadic and familial dynamics in incestuous behaviours. Specifically, I will address three critical questions: (1) What patterns of behaviour and family dynamics are unique to siblings and parent-child incest? (2) Which contextual (e.g., bed-sharing, absences) and individual factors (e.g., impulsivity, sex drive) heighten the risk of incest? (3) How can prevention and intervention strategies be refined to incorporate these insights effectively? By disentangling the "puzzle" of incest, this keynote deepens our understanding of its dynamics, identify gaps in existing research, and provide actionable strategies for evidence-based prevention and intervention.

- **Keynote Presentation 7: *Cultural considerations in sex offender risk assessment and treatment* (Maria Aparcero Suero, USA)**

Sex offender risk assessment instruments were primarily developed in North America and Europe using predominantly White offender samples, often failing to consider the unique experiences and values of culturally diverse offenders. Differences across race, ethnicity, and culture may impact the validity and utility of risk assessment tools; therefore, practitioners should not presume their cross-cultural validity. Additionally, cultural characteristics are relevant for effective treatment interventions. This plenary will discuss how sociocultural characteristics may influence an individual's path to sex offending, risk factors, and treatment responsiveness. By not accounting for these cultural dimensions, professionals may not develop a culturally sensitive risk formulation and management plan, leading to ineffective interventions and potentially unjust legal outcomes. This presentation will draw from research and professional experiences with Latin American populations to exemplify potential limitations with available risk assessment tools, culturally salient risk factors, and specific needs that may need to be considered within current risk assessment and treatment frameworks. For instance, cultural attitudes such as machismo and the normalization of certain sexual behaviors in some communities may influence both offending patterns and treatment responsivity. Furthermore, this plenary will address existing barriers to practitioners serving Latin American sex offenders and recommendations for culturally sensitive risk assessment and intervention strategies. The plenary session will conclude with considerations for future research needed before undertaking projects to culturally adapt or replace existing instruments or treatment programs.

- **Keynote Presentation 8: *Psychoanalysis in the Treatment of Sexual Offenders - An Outdated Concept or an Underestimated Potential?* (Sonja Etzler & Julia Sauter, Germany)**

Psychoanalytic approaches in the treatment of sexual offenders have long been marginalized in favor of cognitive-behavioral interventions. However, is psychoanalysis truly outdated, or does it hold untapped potential in forensic settings? This keynote critically examines the role of psychodynamic concepts in offender treatment, addressing their relevance, effectiveness, and challenges.

We begin by presenting findings from both non-forensic clinical psychotherapy research and forensic applications. These findings provide a foundation for reviewing the challenges and potential benefits of psychodynamic approaches in offender treatment. We discuss how psychodynamic concepts could contribute to offenders' clinical

diagnostics and risk assessment. Additionally, we review results from the implementation of psychodynamic treatment in forensic settings. Finally, we discuss directions for integrating psychodynamic approaches into forensic treatment.

To illustrate the clinical utility of psychodynamic diagnostics, we will present a clinical case formulation in forensic treatment using Operationalized Psychodynamic Diagnosis (OPD-3). This case will demonstrate how psychodynamic conceptualizations can contribute to a deeper understanding of offenders' psychological structures, risk factors, and treatment needs. By integrating these perspectives, we argue for a reconsideration of psychoanalysis in forensic settings and explore its potential to complement existing treatment approaches for sexual offenders.

- **Keynote Presentation 9: *Treatment for men who have sexually offended: Tips for success* (Theresa A. Gannon, UK)**

Those who work with individuals who offend sexually are engaged in a challenging yet vitally important role. In this talk, I will combine research evidence and clinical experience to discuss the elements required to ensure treatment for men who have sexually offended is as successful as possible. The focus will be on treatment for men who have engaged in at least one contact offence against a child or an adult. This talk will include an examination of theory, meta-analyses, as well as therapist factors important for treatment of these individuals. The key factors for improving treatment success will be presented as best practice "tips". Key areas for future research will also be highlighted with some outlined as being an urgent priority.

- **Keynote Presentation 10: *Failed policies: US sex offenders registration, public notification, and civil commitment* (Elizabeth Letourneau, USA)**

Sex offender registration and notification are failed policies. My research and that of virtually all others who publish in this space find that sex offender registration and notification laws fail to improve community safety in any way. Instead, these policies make it difficult for ex-offenders to find and maintain housing, employment, and pro-social positive relationships – the three keys to successful community re-entry following prison. These barriers may increase the likelihood that registrants will commit new crimes in service of meeting basic needs. Registration and notification policies fail in part because they are based on misunderstandings about sex crimes, including that people with sex crime convictions present a high and homogenous risk of sexual recidivism on an immutable trajectory towards more and more severe offending that is undeterred by time free of offending or by age of the individual. The published literature on adult-focused registration and notification most often documents no impact of these policies on sexual recidivism. The published literature on youth-focused registration and notification without exception fails to find any public safety effect and instead finds severe harms to the children subjected to these policies. Ancillary studies indicate that these policies exert unintended consequences that put the public at greater risk, such as more sex offenses being pled down to non-sex offenses to avoid the onerous consequences of the registry, and lower conviction rates for those cases that were not pled down but went forward to trial as sex crime cases. Rather than wasting resources on costly, harmful policies governments could instead implement evidence-based interventions known to decrease the risk of violent recidivism and interventions known to prevent initial offenses from happening in the first place.

- **Keynote Presentation 11:** *Research with adolescents who have engaged in harmful sexual behavior: What we've learned and implications for treatment and prevention* (Michael H. Miner, USA)

Over the last 20 years, researchers at the Eli Coleman Institute for Sexual and Gender Health (formerly the Program in Human Sexuality) have been exploring the application of attachment theory to understanding the perpetration of sexual abuse and sexual aggression by adolescent males. These studies have included comparisons of various categories of adolescents who have perpetrated sexual harm: those with child victims, those with peer/adult victims, and those with only hands off offences; and have compared these groups with boys who committed non-sexual crimes and boys in treatment for substance use or other mental health disorders. The findings from our studies will be presented which provide a model for how attachment style, adolescent social involvement, concepts of masculinity and indications of sexual behavioral control influence the development of sexually abusive and/or sexually coercive behavior. Our work builds on the meta-analysis by Seto and Lalumière (2010) in that we have fleshed out the contribution of attachment theory, further explored issues of social interaction and social involvement, and can discuss how sexuality and early childhood sexual trauma may influence different types of acting out or problematic behavior. The therapeutic implications of our research will be discussed and a broad-brush concept that sets adolescent sexually harmful behavior within the context of other problematic sexual behavior, other delinquent behavior, and internalizing problems of youth will be presented.

Other Academic Highlights

Day 1: Tuesday, August 26th, 2025

Full Day: Prevent and Protect Through Support (2PS) Project Knowledge Transfer Workshop.

Please click [here](#) for more information about the 2 PS-workshop.

The workshop is included in the on-site conference ticket but you need to register for it separately. You can book your seat [here](#).

Day 3: Thursday, August 28th, 2025

06:00 PM-07:00 PM: SAARNA Meet and Greet

SAARNA promotes high-quality training and implementation of risk tools for crime and violence (e.g., Static-99R, STABLE-2007, VRAG-R, ODARA). Join Karl Hanson, Maaike Helmus, and other trainers and SAARNA supporters for this informal gathering. All are welcome!

Day 2: Friday, August 29th, 2025

08:30 AM-09:00 AM: Award Ceremony

The **IATSO Lifetime Significant Achievement Award** recognizes and honors an individual who has made an important contribution within the field of the treatment of sexual offenders over the course of their career. The award is presented to an individual whose career work and dedication have significantly influence or impacted advancements in the field, while promoting the safety and well-being of those affected by sexual abuse and the larger community.

The **IATSO Poster Award** is given to presenters at the biannual IATSO Conferences who are presenting outstanding posters as first-authors. The winners receive financial support

Non-Academic Highlights



Day 2: Wednesday, August 27th, 2025

05:30 PM-06:30 PM: Saint Martin Croissants

There will be a show revealing the secrets of **Saint Martin croissants** and other Poznań specialities in the main conference hall. The show includes a demonstration of how to make St. Martin's croissants, with audience participation, as well as information on the legend of their origin. And, of course, there will be a croissant tasting session! You will also have the opportunity to learn about elements of the Poznań dialect, identity, and stereotypes.

06:30 PM-07:30 PM: Meet and Greet (incl. finger food) at the conference site

Day 3: Thursday, August 28th, 2025

07:30 PM: Conference Dinner

The conference dinner will take place at the **Brovaria** restaurant. The address is ul. Stary Rynek 73-74, 61-772 Poznań. Click [HERE](#) to check it out!.

Note: All non-academic highlights are included in the on-site participant conference fee. If you want to buy a conference dinner ticket for an accompanying person (100 Euros), you can do so when you register or contact office@iatso.org



Apart from the events organized by IATSO, there are plenty of other things you can do in Poznań should you have any spare time.

IATSO Team 2025

Reinhard Eher

IATSO President

Reinhard Eher was born in 1963 in Vienna, Austria. He is a psychiatrist and clinical psychotherapist. He is a co-founder of the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO). He was its secretary general from 1998 to 2016 and president elect from 2016 to August 2021 and is now the IATSO president. Since 2001, he is the head of the Federal Evaluation Centre for Violent and Sexual Offenders (FECVSO) in the Austrian Ministry of Justice in Vienna, Austria. He has written numerous original research papers and given numerous presentations on national and international conferences, mainly about sexual abusive behaviour and risk assessment in sexual offenders. He is professor for forensic psychotherapy at the Medical University in Ulm, Germany.



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Martin Rettenberger

IATSO President elect

Prof. Dr. Martin Rettenberger is the Director of the Centre for Criminology (Kriminologische Zentralstelle – KrimZ) in Wiesbaden, Germany, and is Professor at the Department of Psychology at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU), Germany. Since 2021, he is President elect of the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO) and editor of the open access journal "Sexual Offending: Theories, Research, and Prevention" (SOTRAP). He has published more than 250 research articles, book chapter, and books about risk assessment, sexual and violent offending, and about several other aspects and topics in criminology and forensic psychology.

Sabrina Eberhaut

Conference Organizing Committee

Dr. Sabrina Eberhaut works as a clinical psychologist at the Federal Evaluation Centre for Violent and Sexual Offenders (FECSVSO) of the Austrian Ministry of Justice in Vienna, Austria. She works for the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO) since 2015. Her fields of expertise are risk assessment, sexual deviances and sex offense related cognitive distortions.



Sonja Etzler

Conference Organizing Committee

Dr. Sonja Etzler works as researcher at the Goethe-University Frankfurt Main, Germany, and is in training as psychotherapist at the University Hospital Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany. She has published research contributions about psychological diagnostics, risk assessment, and psychopathy and is interested in psychodynamic treatment approaches.

Filip Szumski

Chair of the Local Organizing Committee

Psychologist with specialization in psychosexology, lawyer. Assistant professor at the Faculty of Psychology and Cognitive Science at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan where he is the head of the Criminological and Forensic Psychology specialization. Member of the board of International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO) and Polish Sexological Society (PTS). President of the PTS' Forensic Sexology Section. His research interests focus on sexual violence and the impact of the legal context on the professional functioning of psychologists. Expert witness in the field of sexual offending. Trained systemic therapist.





Natalia Andrzejczyk

Local Organizing Committee

Psychologist in the certification process in clinical sexology of the Polish Sexological Society. During her doctoral studies in the field of online sexual offending and general pornography use at the Faculty of Psychology and Cognitive Science at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. Provides psycho-sexological support for clients in public centres in Poznan and works as an expert witness in the field of child sexual abuse offences.

Dominika Bartoszak

Local Organizing Committee

Psychologist in the certification process in clinical sexology of the Polish Sexological Society, special educator. Employed as an assistant professor at the Faculty of Psychology and Cognitive Science at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. In 2021, she graduated with the PhD in psychology defending her thesis entitled "Emotions in child sexual abuse offenders". She conducts research on sexual violence and works as an expert witness in the same field.

