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PREVIEW

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**Variations in sexual behavior as predictors of juvenile
criminality: Implications for object relatedness**

Chwast, Bonnie, Psy.D.

Pace University, 1994

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300 N. Zeeb Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48106

PREVIEW

**Variations in Sexual Behavior as Predictors of Juvenile
Criminality: Implications for Object Relatedness**

Bonnie Chwast

**A doctoral project submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of Doctor of Psychology in the
Department of Psychology at Pace University**

New York, December, 1993

(Please type all information)

NAME: Bonnie Chwast

TITLE OF PROJECT: Variations in Sexual Behavior as Predictors of Juvenile
Criminality: Implications for Object Relatedness

DOCTORAL PROJECT COMMITTEE:

PROJECT ADVISOR: Dr. Beth Hart
(Name)
Professor Pace University
(Title) (Affiliation)

PROJECT CONSULTANT: Dr. Florence Denmark
(Name)
Chairperson Pace University
(Title) (Affiliation)

FINAL APPROVAL OF COMPLETED PROJECT:

I have read the final version of the doctoral project and certify that it meets the relevant requirements for the Psy.D. degree in School-Community Psychology.

Beth Hart
(Project Advisor's Signature)

1/12/94
(Date)

Florence L Denmark
(Project Consultant's Signature)

1/15/94
(Date)

ABSTRACT

Variations in Sexual Behavior as Predictors of Juvenile Criminality: Implications for Object Relatedness

The purpose of this study was to assess whether knowledge of the characteristics of incarcerated adolescents' sexual behavior and attitudes has utility in predicting the scope of their criminal activity.

The subjects were 52 male adolescent inmates, adjudged free of mental illness and awaiting trial in an inner city jail. Data concerning sexual behaviors (e.g., number of sex partners, number of cohabiting relationships, use of contraception, incidence of infidelity) and criminal histories (e.g., number of arrests, number of violent charges) were selected from a self-report questionnaire designed for another study.

A stepwise multiple regression analysis demonstrated that several of the selected sexual behaviors had utility in differentiating more chronic and more violent offenders from their inmate peers. Specifically, those who were arrested most frequently, used contraception less and cheated on steady partners more often as was true of offenders with the most charges for violent crimes. Additionally, this latter group

placed less importance on understanding feelings within an ongoing sexual relationship. The link between opportunistic sexual behavior and criminality is discussed in the context of object relational pathology with a particular emphasis on its relationship to psychopathy.

PREVIEW

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As I bring closure to this project, thanks are due to some special people:

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Chapter 1

Introduction and Literature Review

Statement of the problem

No formal documentation is needed to highlight current social concern with escalating rates of violent crime committed by youth. In 1990 persons under 19 years of age accounted for over 21% of all arrests for murder. Between 1965-1989 the arrest rate for juveniles for murder almost tripled, the rate of aggravated assault tripled and the rate of weapons violations increased by two and a half times (Barr, 1992). Furthermore, such violent crime often seems to be characterized by gratuitous aggression, highlighting an essentially callous and heartless bent, a lack of social concern. Who are the youthful offenders who act so callously toward their victims, who engage repetitively in violent acts without mercy and without remorse? Who are the youths who produce the greatest volume of crime, unstopped by differentiated from their criminal peers? Such diagnostic determinations are critical to those within the judicial system who must make decisions for society concerning sentencing, treatment, probation and a host of other dispositional issues.