

Organized and Extreme Abuse Half Day Webinar Series October 28, 2021 | 4:00 PM – 7:15 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Presentation Title: Assigned Functions or “Jobs” of Internal Parts in Personality Systems Created by Organized Abuser Groups

Presenter: Alison Miller, PhD

Content Level: Advanced

Potential to Distress: Yes



Presenter Biography: Dr. Miller was a psychologist in private practice in British Columbia, Canada. She retired in 2017. She has worked with survivors of organized abuse since 1991. She has been a fellow of the ISST-D (International Society for the Study of Trauma & Dissociation) since 2013. She is the 2017 Chair of the Ritual Abuse/Mind Control/Organized Abuse Special Interest Group of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation. Her books include: *Becoming Yourself: Overcoming Mind Control and Ritual Abuse* (for survivors), *Healing the Inimaginable: Treating Ritual Abuse and Mind Control* (for therapists), and (with Wendy Hoffman) *From the Trenches: A Survivor and Therapist Talk about Mind Control and Ritual Abuse* (in press).

Abstract: Although this is not the case for all who suffer from dissociative disorders, many survivors of organized abuse have parts who describe themselves as having “jobs” assigned by perpetrators. Some organized perpetrator groups deliberately traumatize infants and children through tortures designed to split off parts and condition them to perform specific functions. Parts are trained in specific behaviours such as reporting disclosures to the perpetrator group or punishing other disobedient parts through administering internal pain from abuse memories. Perpetrators and survivors in some groups refer to these trainings as “programs.” This workshop will demystify the term “programming” and make it understandable to clinicians as the training of alter personalities. We will review some of the important jobs reported by survivors and the way in which parts are trained for these jobs. While organized personality systems may be similar in how they function, many things may look different depending on the perpetrator’s and victim’s culture.

Clinicians attending this workshop will learn how to assist a survivor client in freeing such parts from their “programming,” enabling them to quit their “jobs” and instead work internally on behalf of the healing of the entire personality system. Methods include unmasking the abusers’ deceptions, enrolling internal leaders in stopping parts from engaging in jobs which put the survivor at risk, using jobs for the benefit of the system, assigning new jobs, and putting together the dissociated pieces of the traumatic memories which lead parts to perform such jobs.

Objectives

Upon completion of this webinar participants will be able to:

- Describe the structured hierarchical personality system and the roles of internal bosses and punisher parts
- Recognize the difference between spontaneous decompensation and symptoms resulting from internal punishment, and know how to minimize this punishment
- Name at least five different “jobs” of alter personalities in structured personality systems
- Name three different strategies for assisting parts to stop doing perpetrator-assigned jobs
- Describe the methods by which parts are trained to do their jobs

Presentation Title: The Intersections of Organised and Extreme Abuse with Technology: Child Sexual Abuse Material and Online/Offline Exploitation

Presenter: Michael Salter, PhD

Content Level: Beginning/Introductory

Potential to Distress: Yes

Presenter Biography: A/Prof Michael Salter is a Scientia Fellow and criminologist at the University of New South Wales. His research is focused on gendered violence and sexual exploitation, including primary prevention, complex trauma and technologically-facilitated abuse. He is the author of two books, including the first study of child sexual exploitation in Australia, *Organised Sexual Abuse* (Routledge, 2013), and an examination of abuse and harassment on social media, *Crime, Justice and Social Media* (Routledge, 2017), as well as over forty papers on violence, abuse



and trauma. A/Prof Salter sits on the Board of Directors of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation, who awarded him the 2018 Morton Prince Award for Scientific Achievement. He is a member of the editorial board of the *Child Abuse Review* and the *Journal of Trauma and Dissociation*, an expert advisor to the Office of the eSafety Commissioner and the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, and the patron of the Child Abuse Prevention Service.

Abstract: This presentation describes the evolving role of technology in organised and extreme abuse and its implications for the safety and wellbeing of victims and survivors. The paper provides a brief history of technology in child sexual exploitation over the past fifty years and the ways in which camera, video and computing developments have been misused by perpetrators of child sexual abuse. The contemporary landscape of responses to technology-facilitated abuse will also be described, including areas of strength as well as ongoing gaps in policy and practice. The paper presents original findings from three research studies: 1) a comparative content analysis of pre-internet and contemporary child sexual abuse material, 2) a global survey of law enforcement and hotline workers specializing in online child abuse and 3) a survey of 75 adult survivors of child sexual abuse material. In closing, the paper closes with reflections from survivors on the adequacy of mental health responses to technology-facilitated abuse and makes recommendations for improved care.

Objectives

Upon completion of this webinar participants will be able to:

- Recognize the impacts of technology-facilitated abuse on survivors of child sexual exploitation
- Analyze competing claims about the role of technology in organised and extreme abuse
- Able to appraise the shifting role of technology in child sexual exploitation for different age cohorts of survivors

References

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Salter, M. (2012). The role of ritual in the ongoing abuse of children. *Child Abuse Review*, 21, 440-481.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/car.2215>

Schroder, J., Richter-Appelt, H. & Briken, P. (2020). Demystifying ritual abuse -Insights by self-identified victims and health professionals. *Journal of Trauma and Dissociation*, 21(3), 349-364. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15299732.2020.1719260>

Jobakht, HN & Dale, K.Y. (2018). The importance of religious/ritual abuse as a traumatic predictor of dissociation. *J. Interpersonal Violence*, 33 (23), 3575-3588. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260517723747>

Schroder, J., Richter-Appelt, H. & Briken, P. (2018). Psychiatric impact of organized and ritual child sexual abuse: Cross-sectional findings from individuals who report being victimized. *Int. J. of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 15, 2417.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph15112417>

Salter, M. (2017). Organised abuse in adulthood: Survivor and professional perspectives. *Journal of Trauma & Dissociation*, 18(3), 441-453. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15299732.2017>

The Intersections of Organised and Extreme Abuse with Technology: Child Sexual Abuse Material and Online/Offline Exploitation

Zewirtz-Meydan, A., Walsh, W., Wolak, J., & Finkelhor, D. (2018). The complex experience of child pornography survivors. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 80, 238-248

Henshaw, M., Ogloff, J. R., & Clough, J. A. (2017). Looking beyond the screen: A critical review of the literature on the online child pornography offender. *Sexual Abuse*, 29(5), 416-445.

Kloess, J. A., Beech, A. R., & Harkins, L. (2014). Online child sexual exploitation: Prevalence, process, and offender characteristics. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 15(2), 126-139.

Quayle, E., & Koukopoulos, N. (2019). Deterrence of online child sexual abuse and exploitation. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, 13(3), 345-362.

Wolak, J. (2015). Technology-facilitated Organized Abuse: An Examination of Law Enforcement Arrest Cases. *International Journal for Crime, Justice & Social Democracy*, 4(2).

Continuing Education

Below is information about continuing education approvals for each session of this program.

Assigned Functions or “Jobs” of Internal Parts in Personality Systems Created by Organized Abuser Groups

ASWB

The International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD), #1744, is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved as ACE providers. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. ISSTD maintains responsibility for this course. ACE provider approval period: 08/20/2020 – 08/20/2021. Social workers completing this course receive 1.5 continuing education credits.

Additional approvals may be added for this session

The Intersections of Organised and Extreme Abuse with Technology: Child Sexual Abuse Material and Online/Offline Exploitation**ASWB**

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APA

The International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

This session is approved for 1.5 APA continuing education credits