

Deconstructing the personal narrative through offending behaviour and interpersonal style

Presenters: Belinda Coulston and Elizabeth Spruin
Professor David Canter and Dr. Donna Youngs

International Research Centre for Investigative
Psychology – University of Huddersfield, UK

http://www2.hud.ac.uk/hhs/ircip/msc_ip.php



Overview

- ▶ Background
 - Narratives
 - Schema
- ▶ Aims
- ▶ Method
- ▶ Descriptives
- ▶ Analysis
- ▶ Results
- ▶ Limitations



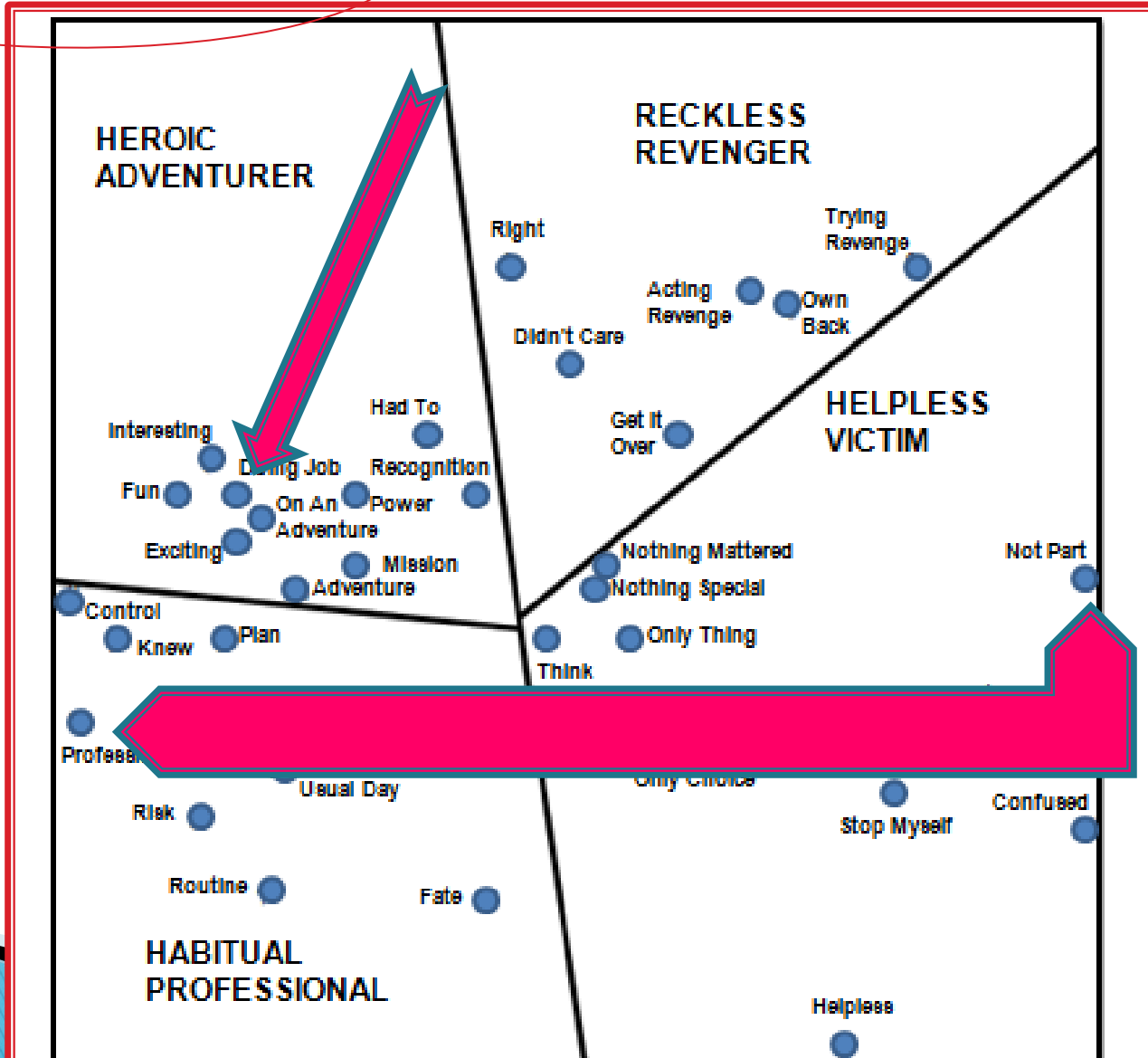
Background – Narratives

- ▶ Narrative Approaches
- ▶ Narrative Theory
- ▶ Criminal Narratives (Canter, Youngs, Ioannou, 2009)
 - ▶ 4 Criminal Narratives
 - Habitual Professional
 - Reckless Revenger
 - Heroic Adventurer
 - Helpless Victim



Narrative Role Questionnaire

Coefficient of Alienation: .22451



Background – Schema

- ▶ Schema Therapy (Young, X)
- ▶ Original Schema Modes
- ▶ Forensic Schema Modes
- ▶ Schema Domains



Background – Schema cont.

Domain 1 – Child Modes

1. Vulnerable Child
2. Angry child
3. Enraged Child
4. Impulsive Child
5. Undisciplined Child
6. Contented Child

Domain 2 – Avoidant Modes

1. Compliant Surrender
2. Detached Protector
3. Detached Self-Soother

Domain 3 – Overcompensating Modes

1. Self-Aggrandizer
2. Bully Attack

Domain 4 – Parent Modes

1. Punitive Parent
2. Demanding Parent

Domain 5 – Healthy Adult Modes

1. Healthy Adult

Aims

- To investigate whether the four criminal narrative roles are correlated with the 14 schema modes (5 schema domains)

Hypothesis:

- **Reckless Revenger:** will have modes that exhibit high arousal and negative affect
- **Helpless Victim:** likely to have modes that reflect vulnerability and perceived injustice/criticalness
- **Heroic Adventurer:** is likely to have modes that exhibit high arousal and positive affect and view self as the healthy adult
- **Habitual Professional:** is likely to have modes that are emotionally detached



Method

- ▶ 70 adult male offenders
- ▶ Convicted of a sexual, violent or acquisitive offence
- ▶ Diagnosed with either Axis I, Axis II or No diagnosis
- ▶ Placed at either a Forensic Medium Secure Unit or community forensic residential hostel
- ▶ Focused on index offence to answer questions in the study
- ▶ Narrative Role Questionnaire (Canter, Youngs, Ioannou, 2009) – 36 items
- ▶ Schema Mode Inventory 1.1 (Young et al. 2008) – 124 Items



Descriptives

Ethnicity

White British: 38.6%
Black British: 10.0%
Black Other: 10.0%

Diagnostic Category

Axis I: 44.3%
Axis II: 10.0%
Axis III: 10.0%

Age

At Interview: 38.6y.o (SD:10.7)
At First Conviction: 19.4y.o (SD: 7.5)
At Index Offence: 29.8y.o (SD: 9.4)

Offence

Violent Offender: 45.7%
Sex Offender: 24.3%
Acquisitive: 30.0%

Length

1-2 years: 17.1%
2-5 years: 31.4%
5+ years: 20.0%
MHA: 31.4%

Analysis

Space Diagram for Dimensionality 3. Axis 1 versus Axis 2.
Coefficient of Alienation08769

Narrative Roles

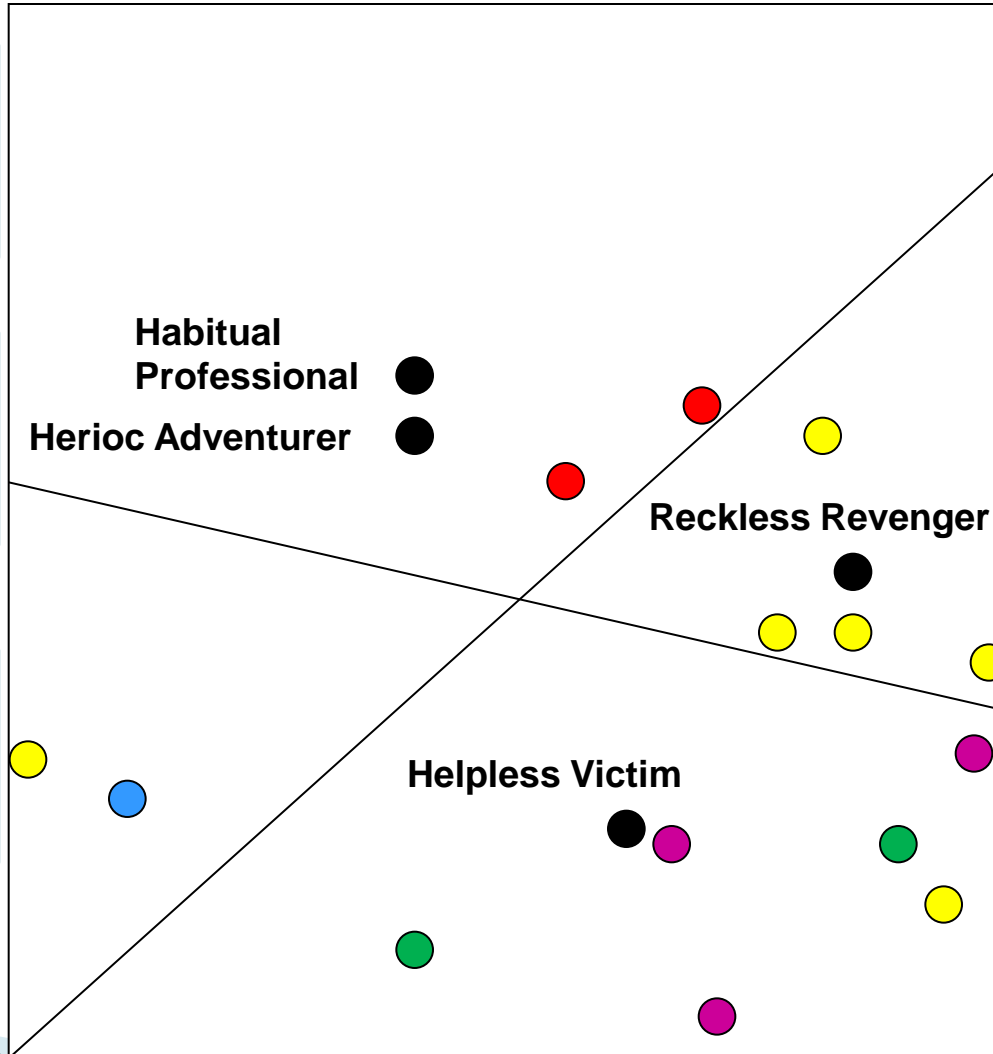
Domain 1:
Child Modes

Domain 2:
Avoidant Modes

Domain 3:
Overcompensating
Modes

Domain 4:
Parent Modes

Domain 5:
Healthy Adult Modes



Results

- Self-Aggrandiser
- Bully Attack

- Self-Aggrandiser
- Bully Attack

Habitual Professional

Heroic Adventurer

Helpless Victim

Reckless Revenger

- Vulnerable Child
- Punishing Parent
- Demanding Parent
- Compliant Surrenderer
- Detached Protector
- Detached Self-Soother

- Angry Child
- Enraged Child
- Impulsive Child
- Undisciplined Child

Benefits

- ▶ Focus on the here and now
- ▶ May help with behavioural chain analysis
- ▶ May help with lower learning capacity
- ▶ Similar constructs have been explored and there are relationships
- ▶ Makes the offender an active agent in their behaviour



Limitations

- ▶ Preliminary Findings – could explore in terms of diagnosis and offence type
- ▶ Questionnaire not tests on validity
- ▶ Questionnaires rated based on ‘recall’ at time of offence
- ▶ Preliminary Findings
- ▶ Small sample size
- ▶ Possibly socially desirable responding
- ▶ Impact of MH status on responses/engagement/offending

Conclusions

- ▶ Preliminary Findings – could explore in terms of diagnosis and offence type
- ▶ Questionnaires rated based on ‘recall’ at time of offence
- ▶ Small sample size
- ▶ Possibly socially desirable responding
- ▶ Impact of MH status on responses/engagement/offending

